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THE JERUSALEM POST

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JORDAN 3 Days \$170

EGYPT 4 Days \$79 see last page

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IDF expecting Hizbullah response to Beirut bomb

DAVID RUDGE

IDF and South Lebanese Army troops are remaining on full alert inside the security zone and along the northern border, following Hizbullah threats to avenge a car bomb attack in a southern suburb of Beirut.

A senior official of the extremist Shi'ite organization, Fuad Mughniyeh, and three others were killed and 16 wounded in the explosion.

There is no evidence of Israeli involvement in the attack, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said last night that the answer to the question of responsibility should be sought in Lebanon.

Nevertheless, the accusations reverberated in Lebanon, with many public figures jumping on the "Israel is to blame" bandwagon.

Hizbullah issued a statement saying that after "repeated threats" by Israeli leaders, "the Zionist enemy and its terrorist apparatus carried out a horrifying crime."

The head of its politburo went further, vowing to escalate attacks against the Israelis.

"The resistance will retaliate against the enemy and teach him a lesson through special operations," Hussein Khalil told Beirut newspapers yesterday. AP reported.

Fuad Mughniyeh is the brother of Imad Mughniyeh, the reported mastermind of the kidnapping of several hostages, including journalist Terry Anderson and Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, in the 1980s.

(Continued on Page 19)



Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi gives a thumbs-up to reporters as he leaves Palazzo Chigi in Rome yesterday, following the announcement of his resignation. (Reuters)

Berlusconi resigns

ROME (AP) - His government splintered beyond repair, media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi resigned as Italy's premier yesterday, capping a year that opened with his optimistic charge into politics and ended with embittered attacks on enemies.

"A weight has been taken off," Berlusconi said after handing in his resignation at the presidential palace.

President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro asked Berlusconi to remain in a caretaker post while options are discussed on forming Italy's 54th

government since 1945.

Berlusconi demands new elections, believing voters are primed to punish his foes, led by disloyal government partner Umberto Bossi of the Northern League.

Scalfaro has made it clear he'd like politicians to form a new parliamentary majority. The pod could go to Berlusconi or someone else. Scalfaro opens talks with political leaders today. But Berlusconi and his allies insist they will not join any other coalition.

(Continued on Page 19)

No breakthrough likely with Syria, Peres tells 'Post'

DAVID MAKOVSKY
and ALON PINKAS

Rabin's military aide.

The identity of the Syrian officer was not revealed, but army sources said it is possible that Syrian Chief of Staff Gen. Hikmat Shihab or his deputy will meet Barak and Yatom.

In early November, a meeting was held in Washington between a Syrian officer, Syrian Ambassador Walid Muallem, Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, and a senior IDF officer. At the time, then deputy chief of general staff Maj. Gen. Amnon Shahak was in the US, as was OC Planning Branch Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan.

But a diplomatic source said the possibility that Barak himself attended that meeting "should not be discounted."

In his interview with the Post (published in full on Page 9), Peres also predicted Israel and the Palestinians will reach an interim agreement within the "next few months."

Peres, who has been upset that he has often been locked out of the negotiations with Syria by Rabin, insisted the talks should be held even if they do not lead to a breakthrough. He said the alternative is no direct contact with Damascus.

"The way it stands now, I think the Syrians are too slow and too low [level]. . . None of us wants to cut the negotiations. We want the negotiations to move on. So even if it's low-level, it's better to have low-level negotiations, as opposed to high-level non-negotiations," Peres declared.

He sounded pessimistic about prospects for progress, saying Assad is far more concerned about how his negotiating tactics will play in the Arab world than in actually making progress at the table.

"We are not on the agenda in his eyes," an exasperated Peres said. "He has another agenda - and that is the Arab world. He wants to demonstrate to the Arab (Continued on Page 2)

Six die in road accidents

SIX people were killed and 11 injured on the nation's roads yesterday.

Three people died last night when a truck and two cars collided on the Arava highway near Be'er Menasha. A total of 17 people have died in road accidents so far this week, a record

for the year.

Earlier in the day, Netanel Binyaminov, 23, of Upper Nazareth, and his sister Zulfu, 29, were killed when their car hit a tree. Two other family members were injured, one seriously.

In Juarish, near Ramle, Ra'id Abu Ajaj, 6, was killed when he was hit by a car driven by a contractor who had come to pick up a worker. The contractor was backing up and didn't see the boy. He was held for questioning.

Nine children were injured, one of them critically, when a car collided with a commercial vehicle last night on the old road to Haifa near Moshav Elyashiv. The accident forced the closing of the road for an extended period. (Lim)

To Our Readers

Today's Jerusalem Post is an expanded 24-page paper, with a 32-page weekend magazine and the 16-page Time Out entertainment magazine, plus local supplements for the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv areas. For your convenience, the weekly News in Focus now appears as a pull-out section in the main part of the newspaper.

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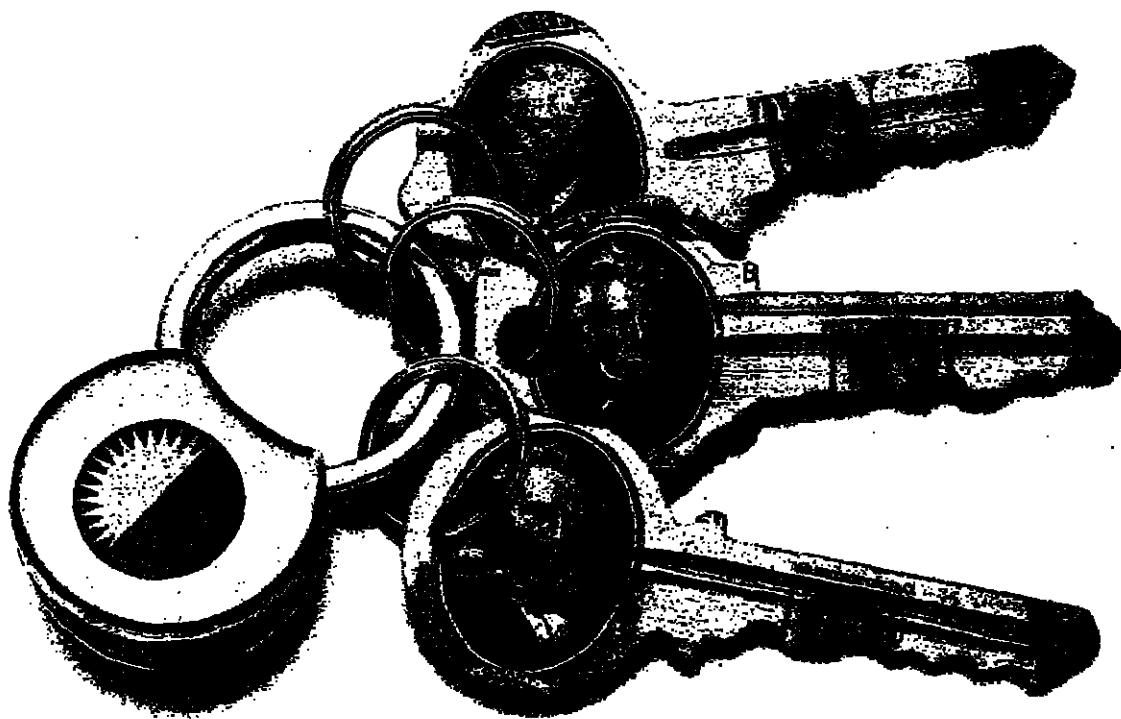
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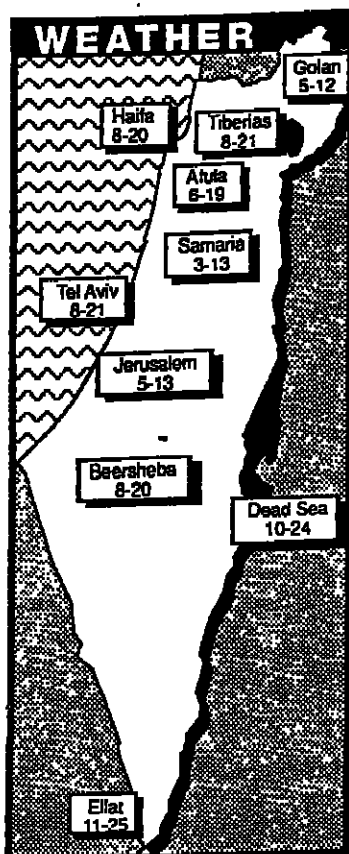
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Palestinians disrupt work on new Efrat neighborhood

THE army was called in to allow ground work to proceed on a new neighborhood in the settlement of Efrat yesterday, after local Palestinians temporarily halted the work.

Dozens of men, women, and children from the village of El Khader, south of Bethlehem, who claim the land is theirs, sat down in front of the bulldozers. The Arab machine operators refused to continue working.

Settlement officials presented army and civil administration officials at the site with documentation

BILL HUTMAN and Itim

showing the construction was legal. A civil administration spokesman said that land had been declared state land several years ago.

The site, to be known as Givat Hatamar, is some two kilometers from Efrat, but is under the jurisdiction of the Efrat Local Council. Some 500 homes are planned there, and the officials said they have already been sold.

Efrat Local Council head Yinnon Ahiman said that more housing would be built to link the new neighborhood and the

rest of Efrat.

The army declared the site a closed military zone for several hours in the afternoon. Four women who refused to leave were forcibly removed, but the other demonstrators dispersed peacefully.

Settlers replaced the Arab machine operators, and the digging resumed in the afternoon.

Ahiman charged that reports of plans to withdraw the IDF from Bethlehem has encouraged residents of the area to fight any further Jewish development there.

Court reluctant to release Edri pending trial

ALON PINKAS

A FINAL decision on releasing Lt. Oren Edri prior to the beginning of his trial will be made early next week, the Jaffa Military Court announced yesterday.

The court expressed its reluctance to release Edri until pre-trial procedures are completed.

Edri, who allegedly assisted a right-wing underground, has been detained for three months. He is charged with illegally transferring IDF arms, conducting military training outside the army, and conducting unbecoming an officer.

The court, headed by Central Command Court President Col. Mordechai Peled, refused to accept the defense argument that Edri is now charged with "one hundredth of what the original charge sheet contained."

After hearing defense attorney Zion Amir and prosecutor Lt.-Col. Avi Levy, Peled said that he will decide

next week on a possible release. His decision angered Edri's family, and his father, Yitzhak, shouted at the prosecutors: "God will hurt you like you are hurting my son."

In the courtroom, Edri refused to subject himself to a cross-examination, claiming he was "distracted." Judge Zvi Gurfinkel told Edri that his testimony is the most important in the trial, and that he is not a defendant in a juvenile court.

"We are not the General Security Service. We will not bring rats in here, put a sack on your head, or deprive you of food," Gurfinkel said.

After a short break, Edri finally agreed to be cross-examined by the prosecution, and described his harsh imprisonment.

"I was told to shut up and not think I was in a hotel when I asked for wine for Friday night kiddush. I also had to kill 10 rats in my cell," Edri said.

As for the charges against him, Edri reiterated his argument that he never took any weapons or explosives from the ammunition dump in his unit.

PECDAR 'cancels' parley after gov't ban

BILL HUTMAN

THE Palestinian development organization PECDAR at the last minute "postponed" a Jerusalem conference, scheduled for yesterday, that had been banned by the government.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat called on PECDAR not to hold the conference, in an effort to avoid a confrontation with the government and police, according to Samir Hu-leleh, director of the PLO-affiliated group.

Yesterday morning, police set up roadblocks around the Jerusalem hotel where the conference was to be held, but only a few participants had to be turned away, witnesses said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered the conference canceled, saying it violated the Cairo Accords ban on activity by the Palestinian Authority anywhere but in Jericho and Gaza.

Huleleh said that the conference "was postponed at the request of the chairman." He added that it would likely be held in two weeks.

Huleleh declined to go into details, only hinting that the senior PA figures that were originally scheduled to be there would not attend, to appease the government.



Economics and Planning Minister Shimon Shetreet (right) and his counterpart in the Palestinian Authority, Nabil Shaath, emerge yesterday from Shetreet's offices in Tel Aviv. The two discussed cooperation in various matters. (Gideon Markovitz/UPA)

Jericho Hamas activist shot dead in apparent revenge killing

BILL HUTMAN, JON IMMANUEL and news agencies

A RESIDENT of the Jericho autonomous area was shot dead on his way to work yesterday morning by assailants apparently taking revenge in a family feud.

The army said a second Palestinian was killed in Hebron while preparing a bomb.

Ibrahim Yaghi, 27, from the Alkat Jabar refugee camp near Jericho, was on his way to work as a teacher at an area vocational school when the assailants pulled up in a car beside him and opened fire.

Yaghi was a well-known Hamas activist, and it was first thought that his affiliation with Hamas was behind the attack.

Palestinian Police said after an initial investigation that the murder was apparently motivated by a family dispute, and was not connected to his affiliation with Hamas.

A three-day strike in Jericho was declared by local Hamas activists to protest Yaghi's murder.

In Hebron, 18-year-old Eid Zughayar was killed while preparing a bomb, the army said. Family members contested the army account, however, saying Zughayar was shot to death by soldiers.

Also in Jericho, Ibrahim Amru, who accused collaborators of murdering his wife of three days, has reportedly confessed to killing her himself.

News of the confession was published in the Jerusalem Arabic press, which quoted Preventive Security chief Col. Jibril Rajoub.

Amru was himself wounded in

the shooting 10 days ago, but the wounds were apparently self-inflicted, since all the bullets fired at his wife, Rasmie, and himself were from his own gun.

Amru claims he shot her by mistake. But according to the papers, he is suspected of shooting her because he discovered she was not a virgin.

Amru knew Rasmie before being sentenced to life in prison for murdering a man who was a suspected collaborator with Israel. After serving five years, he was released to the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority in Jericho as part of the Cairo agreement and the two married.

Off the coast of the Gaza Strip yesterday, the navy shot at a fishing boat, seriously wounding two Palestinians after they sailed outside the designated fishing zone, the army said.

Golan leaders tour Judea and Samaria

BILL HUTMAN

GOLAN leaders toured settlements in Judea and Samaria yesterday, in what was widely viewed as an indication the two groups are coming closer to forming a joint front against the government.

"We told the Golan people from the outset that we're in the same boat," said Yehiel Leiter, spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. "We told them that they are not going to find more friends by keeping away from council people."

Council leaders said the visit by the Golan Communities Committee was a clear indication Golan residents are altering their longstanding policy of distancing themselves from their movement.

The Golan leaders said they had a lot to learn from the council on how to fight the government's plans to cede the land on which they live.

Former police commander charged with bribery, fraud

FORMER Northern District police chief Cmdr. Ya'acov Ganot was charged with bribe-taking, fraud and breach of trust yesterday in Nazareth District Court.

Also charged was Subli Panos, 41, a contractor police say received favors from Ganot in exchange for renovation work in the latter's home.

Ganot is also charged with misusing his post, fraud and breach of trust for asking a police officer who started working in the district do favors for him. (Itim)

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In yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, ten of hearts, eight of diamonds, and king of clubs.

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in Ra'anana: 132 Rehov Ahuza at 9:00 a.m.

مكاتب النصح

Wages taking up more of the defense budget

EVELYN GORDON

WAGES have become an ever-greater portion of the defense budget in recent years, while the proportion of funds spent on development has dropped, a Treasury official told a joint meeting of two Knesset committees yesterday.

The Finance and Foreign Affairs and Defense committees were meeting to discuss the 1995 defense budget. The discussion will continue this morning.

Meir Gilad, the Treasury's deputy budget director, told the committee that in 1995, wages are slated to account for some NIS 4 billion of the NIS 25b. budget, or about 16 percent, one MK reported.

Some of the committee members were sharply critical of the high pay IDF officers receive. However, Deputy Chief of General Staff Amnon Shahak insisted that army wages are not too high, and rejected sugges-

tions they be reduced.

The IDF's purchasing budget is also slated to increase next year, by about 5 percent in real terms, an MK reported. The army is increasing its purchases to make up for a sharp decline in purchasing during the 1980s, he said.

In addition, the budget reportedly includes some NIS 1 billion for implementation of the agreements with the PLO and Jordan.

Shahak reportedly told the committee that the overall defense budget is still not high enough, and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin upheld this. The IDF, Shahak said, does not have enough money to properly equip itself.

However, MKs said it is unlikely they will add anything to the defense budget at this late date.

The entire 1995 budget is slated to be approved by the full Knesset next week.

Remand of Weissman couple extended

RAINE MARCUS

MIRIAM and Michael Weissman, the elderly couple suspected of killing their 33-year-old daughter while she slept in their Bat Yam apartment, were remanded for 10 more days by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Judge Zacharia Caspi extended their remand after deciding that police had substantial evidence against them.

Natalie Weissman-Margalit, the divorced mother of a nine-year-old girl, was found dead by her parents last Thursday night, shortly after she reportedly told her mother she felt sick.

At first police believed she died of natural causes, but a pathologist discovered she was murdered, probably by suffocation.

Her parents were arrested but have denied all allegations.

After the victim's funeral, police left the couple together in a car, to which a recording device was attached, hoping they would incriminate themselves. But the couple said nothing, police said.

Natalie was arrested by Bat Yam police about a month ago on suspicion of trying to throw her daughter down the stairs. She was given a warning and released.

Now police believe that Miriam Weissman, 74, and her husband Michael, 72, murdered their daughter because they were afraid she would harm their granddaughter.

In court yesterday, police said they were still awaiting results of a toxicological examination to discover what pills Natalie had taken the night of her death. Police said she took sleeping pills and had a drinking problem. She suffered from depression and apparently had no friends.



Michael Weissman maintains his innocence outside the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

(Hanoah Gritsky)

Witness in Deri case: Police put words in my mouth

AVRAHAM Hecht, one of the leaders of the Moresht Binyamin non-profit organization that bought property at Nebi Samwil, yesterday accused police investigators of putting words in his mouth.

But when asked by prosecutor Yehoshua Resnick exactly what he meant, Hecht said he would have to look at a transcript of his interrogation to say for certain.

Hecht was testifying at Shas leader Aryeh Deri's trial in Jerusalem District Court about the six plots the organization passed on to the Lev Banim yeshiva.

Resnick asked the court to present the protocol of Hecht's interrogation by police to the witness because of contradictions between his statement to police and his testimony in court

regarding the plots.

Hecht told the court his former partner, Shlomo Levy, promised plots to the Lev Banim yeshiva and the family of Aryeh Weinberg, head of the yeshiva, and his son, Moshe, but that he had only general knowledge of the plan. He denied he had turned over any documents to the police, but Resnick said Hecht had given police documents regarding land deals he signed with land dealer Shmuel Einav.

According to Hecht, Weinberg promised to promote the project among the yeshiva students, and Moresht Binyamin promised to pay the Weinbergs \$900 per buyer sent to them - \$500 to the yeshiva and \$400 to Moshe Weinberg's real estate office. (Itim)

'Health services to keep pace with developments'

JUDY SIEGEL

IF the health tax is lowered as part of a package deal with the Histadrut, the Health Ministry will insist on legislation to ensure the gap between health expenses and income is covered by the Treasury, Health Minister Ephraim Sneh said yesterday.

Sneh said the ministry's main aim will be to pass legislation to update the basket of health services so it does not lag behind new developments in medicine.

Sneh added the ministry will closely observe implementation of the national health insurance system to be launched on January 1, and make changes if necessary.

Ministry Director-General Prof. Mordechai Shani added the trend towards giving hospitals more autonomy "will continue but there will not be any drastic changes." Shani insisted there would not be quotas for medical procedures in the hospitals, but there would be price limits.

The aim is to cut the number of hospital beds only in those fields

in which ambulatory treatment is possible, said Shani. "There will not be any cut in manpower slots or dismissals or queues for treatment," he said.

Meanwhile, the Israel Medical Association has sent letters to Sneh, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir, protesting the new arrangements for funding hospital treatment of premature babies.

The IMA said that instead of the National Insurance Institute transferring money directly to the hospital, the new national health insurance law gives the money to the health funds, which are supposed to transfer these earmarked funds to the hospitals for each premature infant's care. The IMA suggested there is no guarantee the insurers will in fact transfer the money to the hospitals on time.

No comment was available yesterday from Health Ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai.

Suspect in Yehezkel Aslan murder held

RAINE MARCUS

A PRISONER serving time for extortion and suspected of murdering underworld figure Yehezkel Aslan nearly two years ago was remanded for nine days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Following an investigation, police two weeks ago arrested four men, three of them convicts, in

connection with the murder. Detectives suspect Reuven "Banjo" Adjashvili killed Aslan as he was leaving a Tel Aviv restaurant in February 1993.

Adjashvili is refusing to cooperate with police. His lawyer, Uri Bar-Oz, accused police of being influenced by reports in the press.

Skiing season opens on Mt. Hermon

DAVID RUDGE

NEARLY 2,000 people took advantage of the weather conditions to enjoy a day on the slopes of Mt. Hermon as the site officially opened its ski season for the first time this winter.

"After investing NIS 10 million in the past two years on improving the access road, installing a new ski lift and upgrading other facilities, it's nice to be able to begin the season early with such excellent conditions," said

an official at the site yesterday. He said the accumulation of snow on the peak had already reached a depth of between two and three meters and was over a meter on the lower slopes.

"There is already enough snow on the mountain to be able to ensure good skiing conditions for the next four weeks. We are now preparing for the weekend when we expect many visitors, as well as skiers," he added.

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Seasonal naivete play

PEANUTS probably best describes former president Jimmy Carter's achievement in Bosnia. Invited by the Bosnian Serbs, he was sucked into a diplomatic vacuum and emerged clutching another worthless cease-fire agreement, which simply allows the Serbs to consolidate their territorial gains and sidestep the five-power Contact Group's comprehensive peace plan.

The "Carter Christmas cease-fire," due to go into effect at noon today, is to be followed by immediate talks on a halt to the war and a negotiated settlement. But the Carter script seems to offer a naive play to replace the season's traditional nativity play. The Bosnian Serb aims were clearly highlighted in the semantic difference between the Serbs' interpretation of the cease-fire and that of the Bosnian government. The government accepts the cease-fire as a step to implementing the peace plan. But the Serbs accept it as an opening to new negotiations only "on the basis" of the plan.

In other words, the Serbian side wants new peace talks to acknowledge their military conquests of 70 percent of Bosnia, ignoring the generous 50 percent already conceded under the international draft settlement. The Bosnian Moslem side has accepted this painful division of the country and is clearly unwilling to start from scratch with new maps and drafts. Neither is there any reason why they should - they have accepted international diplomatic opinion, and the plan has been pushed even by the Serbs' most powerful ally, Russia, and accepted by the main Serbian government in Belgrade.

It is difficult to understand what dragged Carter into the Yugoslav bog, where he was so clearly out of his depth. He has been credited with good intentions but was apparently not reminded of the old proverb that the path to hell is paved with them.

Despite the praise he has won for his mediation efforts in North Korea and Haiti, there was something not quite concrete about even those efforts. The feeling is not eased by his embarrassing habit of piously finding good in every nasty dictator he has met - including Haiti's brutal Raoul Cedras and the late unspeakable Kim Il Sung.

Japan and South Korea have severely criticized the United States for going soft with North Korea and granting far too generous terms to give the communist state a new nuclear reactor program. In Haiti, Carter seemed to have brokered a collapse of the military dictatorship, which was inevitable anyway because of President Clinton's uncompromising ultimatum.

In Bosnia, time will undoubtedly reveal that Carter has simply added new complications to an incredibly complex picture.

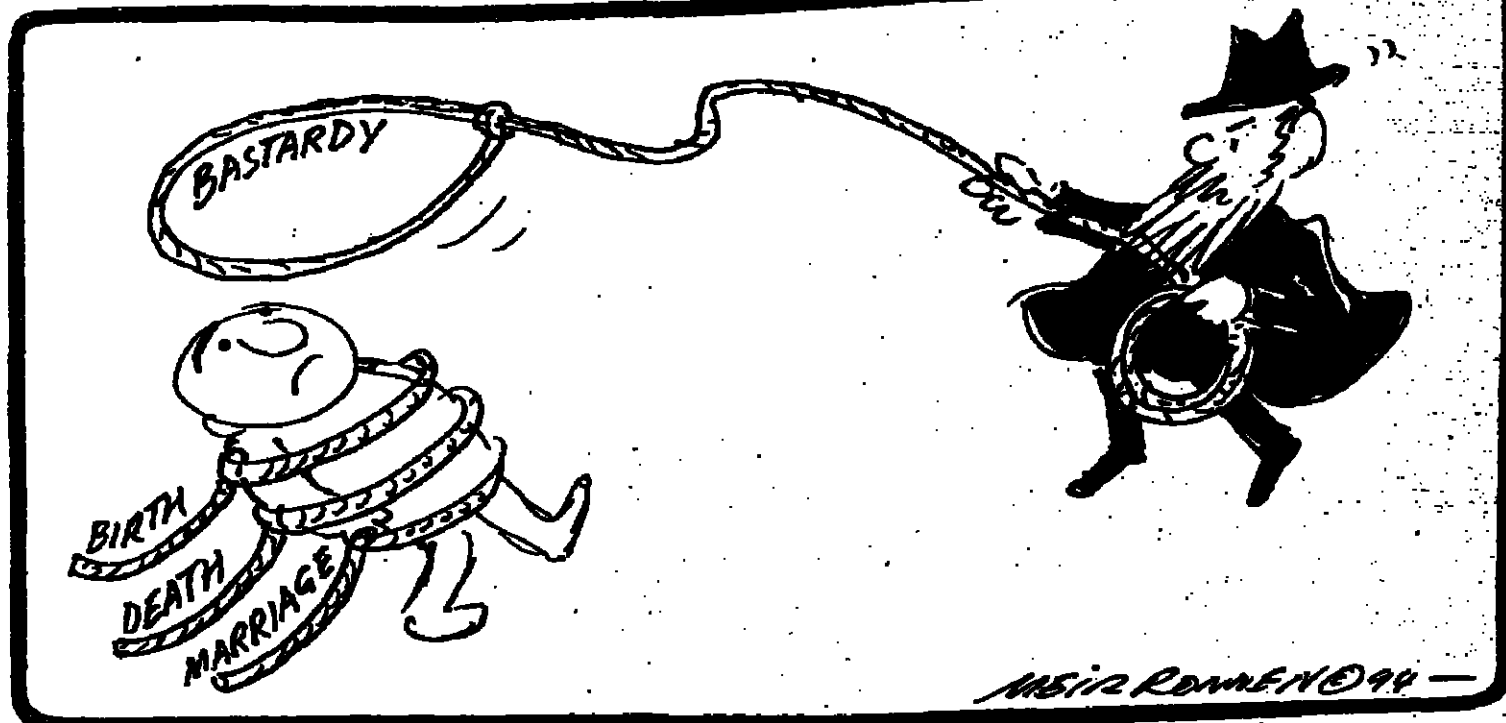
In retrospect, his trip may seem at best a lamb's public relations exercise on behalf of wolves, at worst another attempt to appease relentless conquerors. His lack of understanding of the issues was painfully clear as he stumbled and stammered over the unfamiliar names and areas of responsibility of the various Serb and Moslem leaders. His greatest howler came when he asked Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, a Moslem leader in a war-shattered country, if he would care to contribute to the Carter Center, a registered US charitable Christian institution. The Moslem leaders were already diplomatically biting their tongues after Carter lectured them on how much their Bosnian Serb enemies were misunderstood.

As a diplomatic negotiator Carter was clearly less *au fait* with the Bosnia story than a green-horn journalist, further fueling criticism that he is politically naive in international affairs. The timing of the Serbs' invitation to Carter was also suspiciously significant - whatever the situation on the battlefield, it was near certain the Serbs would favor a Christmas cease-fire which has been traditional for Christian armies for centuries. In that case, Carter did no more than endorse a foregone conclusion.

The greatest flaw in the cease-fire agreement is that it virtually excluded the main battleground - the besieged Bihac pocket. This is because Carter failed to bring on board the Croatian Serbs adjacent to this northwestern Bosnian enclave. They have been helping the Bosnian Serbs squeeze and pound the so-called UN safe area into submission. Neither was a rebel Moslem faction allied to the Croatian Serbs included. These Krajina Serbs hold a third of Croatia, including the entire length of its border with Bihac, and their role has been to soften up the Moslem positions across the frontier with artillery barrages and air strikes.

With less than 24 hours to the cease-fire yesterday, there was no sign of any letup in the fighting. The Serbs fired shells into a Sarajevo flea market, killing at least two people and wounding many. Fighting also raged in three other UN safe areas and Bosnian Serbs, despite endless recent promises, have continued halting and harassing UN aid convoys. Carter's peace achievements remained invisible.

Today's cessation of hostilities will be the 23rd major cease-fire declared since the start of the war. It is unlikely Carter will be invited to return to broker the 24th.



The court crosses the line

CHAIM HERZOG

SOME years ago, at a swearing-in ceremony of judges, I said: "I am moved by a deep concern for the honor and dignity of the Supreme Court in our society. It is a body of which we are justifiably very proud. But there may come a day when the legislative and administrative elements of our democratic system decide to defend themselves by legislation against what they feel is the encroachment of the Supreme Court on their province. Where can this lead us?"

We are witnessing an unpleasant debate which includes personal attacks on judges who have reached the pinnacle of our legal system. This is all the more serious because, in his heart of hearts, the average citizen has always felt more secure because of the Supreme Court's existence.

From the outset, the court developed a policy limiting its involvement in political issues and preventing it from clashing with the two other authorities. As a result, the court's standing was strengthened, and it never became the subject of public debate.

Following the acceptance of a number of Basic Laws by the Knesset - which will be an integral part of the proposed Constitution of the State - the Knesset was remiss in not anticipating the possibility of a clash between the Supreme Court and the legislature, and in not providing in law for an authoritative interpretation of the relationship of the Basic Laws to newly proposed legislation.

New legislation should specify who has the legal right to decide whether a law is in conflict with the provisions of the Basic Law (or, in future, the Constitution). This should be done either by a constitutional court, like in France, Germany and other countries, or by a special composition of the Supreme Court, as in the US.

In the past, the Supreme Court set limits to the judicial standing

I have never understood why the High Court of Justice entertained petitions from the general public on, for example, purely military matters (for instance, the distribution of gas masks); on the appointment of ambassadors or directors-general of government departments; on sending police to Haiti; on the day of the week in which a given TV program would be broadcast; or on the dress requirements of a police

balance between them.

"Only in this manner is it possible to prevent an overcentralization of authority in the hands of one authority; only thus can democracy be guaranteed, and the freedom of the citizen and of the public be ensured." Shagrir added that the concept of the division of powers "rejects total centralization whereby the Supreme Court will become involved in every issue, political or other, and will become an arbiter in such matters."

It is true that the administrative authority is guilty of an alarming degree of weakness in many fields - and the citizen who is, as a result, directly affected must have the right to petition the High Court.

But as former chief justice Moshe Landau pointed out, "The weakness of other authorities in the state cannot be cured by imposing heavy responsibility on the court, which was never expected to, and is incapable of, bearing them."

While the Supreme Court interprets the law and decides on the legal norms applicable in our society, its power does not include the setting of non-legal and moral norms which can at times be irreconcilable with the beliefs of a given part of the population.

Such an approach could well give rise to a counterreaction which might affect public trust in the court and the universal respect it so richly deserves.

The writer was Israel's sixth president.

Trying to encroach on the Knesset is the wrong way to go

required in order to appear before it as a High Court of Justice, thus preventing what is now the case, an excessive rush by citizens to the High Court.

This new development imposes a very heavy load on the court, preventing it from dealing expeditiously with cases brought to it as a Supreme Court. Daily we witness injustice as a result of the slowness of court procedures.

I recently read about a girl who had been very seriously injured in a nature reserve. She fought a legal battle that lasted 13 years (including eight years in the Supreme Court) before she won compensation.

IT IS essential that the Supreme Court readopt a policy of setting a limitation on judicial standing.

officer appearing before the court. All such issues should be the responsibility of the administrative authority, which must be judged by the electorate every four years.

When the famous protest led by Motti Ashkenazi after the Yom Kippur War came before the Supreme Court, its decision was that "subjects related to the organization of the army, its construction, its deployment, its equipment and its operations are not subject to judicial scrutiny and are subjects which should not be brought before the courts."

The logical approach to this problem was summed up by our distinguished chief justice, Meir Shamgar. He said that the division between the authorities was created in order to establish a

PLO leader's confidence trick

SHMUEL KATZ

YASSER Arafat went into a frenzy of activity when he discovered that he would be unable to honor the solemn undertaking he had given as part of his agreement with Israeli leaders to cancel the "offensive" clauses in the Palestinian Covenant.

These clauses promise to put an end to the Jewish state and dispose of most of its Jewish residents (by forced exile or otherwise). His inquiries within the PLO had revealed to him that he would be unable to command the majority in the Palestinian National Council which was essential for such a drastic change of policy.

He immediately set in train a variety of pressures - letters to every member of the PNC, inspired articles in the Arabic press throughout the world, appeals for intervention by the leaders of the Arab states, speeches in mosques - all with the end of getting the recalcitrant members of the council to change their minds.

"How," he cried, in one of his speeches in a mosque, "how can we expect the Israelis to make peace with us, and trust us to keep our word when we, the body recognized by the Arab nation as the 'sole representative of the Palestinian people,' continue to adhere to our plan for destroying Israel 'phase by phase' and erasing from history the whole concept of Israel as a State and the Jews as a nation?"

Anyone who has lived through the 450-odd days since the historic handshake and the signing of the agreement between Arafat and Rabin will recognize at once that what I have written here is a figment of my imagination.

It is what should have happened, had there been the smallest grain of truth in the belief, promoted throughout the world by Rabin, Peres and company, that the Arabs (Palestinians and others who subscribed at the Rabat Conference in 1974 to the recognition of the PLO) are seeking

ing to make an honorable peace with Israel.

Arafat never "discovered" that he could not carry out his undertaking. He knew it long before he entered into negotiations with the Rabin-Alon government. He knew it because he himself had not the slightest intention of trying to have the covenant, or any part of it, altered or abrogated. Nobody more than Arafat hopes to consummate in his lifetime the covenant's stated purpose.

to amend the covenant, the Israeli government, with the collaboration of the Hebrew press, accepted this as an adequate response to its demands.

THUS AS Rabin and his colleagues march forward, arm-in-arm with Arafat, Israel will reach the point - unless the process is stopped - where a Palestinian State is established.

In his opening statement as president, Arafat will be able to

more fiercely than ever.

When negotiations with Arafat opened, it was understood naturally that Israel was dealing with the "leader of the Palestinian people."

"No," said Arafat, "the agreement will be with the PLO." By simple sleight of hand, the torch of terror was passed on by Arafat to a segment of the "Palestinian people" (Hamas) whom, suddenly, he does not represent, for whose actions he denies responsibility, and whose murders (far more numerous than in the old intifada days) he sometimes does, and sometimes does not, deny to denounce.

With a submissive media backing him, nobody points out to Rabin the enormity of the hideous confidence trick played by Arafat, with the help of the Israeli government, on the sorely-tried Israeli people. The government and its apologists now pretend that the continuation of terror is the most natural concomitant of a "peace process."

To add insult to injury, Rabin offers the Israeli people the innuendo and callous formula: "We shall proceed with the peace process as if there were no terror, and fight terror as if there were no peace process."

It may be assumed without reservation that Arafat finds this formula most acceptable.

The writer has published several books on Zionist and Jewish history.

POSTSCRIPTS

AN 80-YEAR-OLD Hanoi widow wanted to get cash for a drink, so he went in for a vasectomy.

"Nguyen Van Dac would do anything to get money for drink," the women's newspaper *Phu Nu Thu Do* said.

It did not say how much Dac received. Local authorities, trying to reduce population growth, normally pay men or women who volunteer for sterilization 50,000-120,000 dong (\$5-12).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO U.S. TROOPS ON THE GOLAN

Sir, - Seymour Reich, President of the American Zionist Movement, claims (Letters, November 25) that those who are participating in "the current discussion" over whether or not to deploy US troops on the Golan are opposed to peace between Israel and Syria. Does Reich mean to suggest that the many members of Congress who have questioned the wisdom of putting American soldiers on the Golan are opposed to peace between Israel and Syria? Is he claiming that pro-Israel Democrats, such as Senator Daniel Moynihan and Representative Rob Andrews, and pro-Israel Republicans, such as Senator Slade Gorton and Representative Jim Saxton, are opposed to peace between Israel and Syria? To make such a claim flies in the face of their long records of strong support for Israel and Middle East peace. They have legitimate concerns about the dangers that American troops would face from terrorist attacks or kidnappings of Americans by Hizbullah and other terrorist groups that are based a few miles away in South Lebanon. Studies by military experts have shown that stationing American troops on the Golan would not facilitate peace, and might well harm the US-Israeli relationship.

Those concerns are shared by a broad range of interested parties. A recent study by Dr. Dore Gold, of

Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, concluded that putting US troops on the Golan "would, in the final analysis, be disadvantageous for Israel's security." *The Washington Post*, in a November 23 editorial, pointed out: "You don't have to be Likud to ask about putting American soldiers into a Golan that is quite different, in its physical features and in the quality of the neighborhood, from the Sinai... What are the risks of Americans being shot at? What would happen if Israel were attacked or itself felt driven to wage preemptive war?" *The Journal New Republic*, for its part, argued in a recent editorial (July 4) that "there is something bizarre about the priorities of an administration that refuses to send troops to defend helpless Bosnians, or starving Haitians, but is willing to send them into a potential war zone in the Middle East to protect a country that is perfectly capable of protecting itself." The American public evidently shares these concerns: a recent survey by the prestigious journal *Middle East Quarterly* found that 64.3 percent of Americans oppose stationing US soldiers on the Golan Heights, and only 17.9 percent support such a deployment.

MORTON A. KLEIN
National President,
Zionist Organization of America
New York.

THE FALASH MURA

Sir, - In response to the demonstration of the immigrants from Ethiopia who demanded to speed up the aliya of their relatives in Addis Ababa, the spokesman of the Ministry of Absorption said that 1,400 immigrants from the Falash Mura had arrived in Israel (November 28).

As someone who deals with the aliya and absorption of the immigrants from Ethiopia, I am sorry to say that this is a mistake or, worse, an attempt to mislead the public and the immigrants who are waiting for their families to come.

Until now, only 758 of the immigrants are Falash Mura. The rest are "ordinary" immigrants from Ethiopia.

pia who are still coming after Operation Solomon and have nothing to do with the Falash Mura.

May I point out that 98 percent of the Falash Mura have returned to Judaism and are now truly Jews, keeping the Torah and the mitzvot, they are faithful citizens and their absorption is successful. Therefore, we must no longer use the term Falash Mura, which is an insulting name for them.

RABBI MENACHEM WALDMAN,
Committee for the Absorption of
Ethiopian Jews in Israel,
Chief Rabbinate of Israel
Haifa.

ISRAEL'S WATER

Sir, - A report in *The Jerusalem Post* of November 22 indicates that Israel is heading toward a serious water shortage, and that in 10 or 15 years the country will be short 400 million cubic meters of water per year. The water quality in Israel is already poorer than in other Western countries and the Agriculture Minister, Ya'acov Tsuri, said that in the future the country will have to resort to desalination and purification of sewage water.

In view of this ominous reality, it is reckless for the peace treaty with Jordan to include the transfer of 150 million cubic meters per year of Israel's best water to Jordan. If Rabin succeeds in his plans to give away the Golan Heights and Judea and Samaria, Israel will have relinquished control over virtually all its water sources and aquifers to those who are driven by their religion and culture to replace Israel with the 23rd Islamic dictatorship in the Middle East.

Never before in history have national leaders commanding a powerful nation and armed forces that have never been beaten surrendered to defeated, weaker enemies the country's most precious commodities - its land and water resources without which no nation can exist.

GEORGE E. RUBIN
New York.

PROTEST MEETING

Sir, - Your paper splashed reports and a large picture of the Nobel Peace Prize recipients on the first page of the December 11 issue. At the same time as the three prize winners were accepting their awards, over 1,500 people packed the Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem to listen to the true man of the moment, Mr. Kaare Kristiansen, a man of integrity, understanding and real values.

I assume your paper valued that meeting since Mr. David Bar-Ilan of *The Jerusalem Post* chaired it. Why didn't you see fit to put it on page one instead of relegating it to the second page? Now that was a story worthy of the front page.

SHALVA DAVIES
Jerusalem.

مكازم النخيل

No illusions

YEHUDA LEVY

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman's visit to Egypt this week highlighted the ambivalence with which the Egyptians conduct their relations with Israel.

Weizman is highly respected among Egyptians, and he was warmly welcomed by everyone in Cairo. But he must be aware of the wide gap between these personal sentiments and Egypt's general attitude toward relations with Israel. At times, one got the impression that many Egyptians would rather Weizman were president of some other country.

It was hard to ignore the warmth and hospitality Egyptian officials and intellectuals - let alone the ordinary Cairenes - showed an Israeli visitor, especially one in Weizman's entourage. But when the real problems of the Middle East and Arab-

dle East. He certainly understands that Egypt is satisfied with the kind of peace it now has with Israel, a peace which has guaranteed it US support and a stronger status in the Arab world.

All the receptions and ceremonies cannot blur the basic fact that any Arab interest - Palestinian or Syrian, Lebanese or even Iraqi - will always be more important to Egypt than a further strengthening of the peace with Israel.

If any reminder were necessary, it came in the blunt headlines in the major Egyptian newspapers shortly before the farewell ceremony for Weizman on Wednesday morning.

Al-Gomhouryya quoted Hosni Mubarak as saying: "Jerusalem is Palestinian land." And Al-Ahram quoted Foreign Minister Amr Moussa as strongly attacking Israel for refusing to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

This came less than 24 hours after Mubarak told The Jerusalem Post that Jerusalem is a complex issue, but not a Palestinian one. "We will all have to participate in the talks on Jerusalem," he said.

On the NPT issue, Mubarak stressed very clearly that "Egypt does not demand that Israel signs. We only told the Americans that we shall not sign it as long as Israel doesn't."

It is high time we understood our neighbor's real agenda. We cannot change much of it - certainly not by further concessions - and we should not indulge in wishful thinking.

Measured by the limited goals set beforehand, Weizman's visit to Egypt may be termed successful. A further warming of personal relations between Israel's president and the top Egyptian leadership is no less important than other diplomatic efforts.

But Israel ought to remain sober and without any illusions as to the real interests of Egypt and its role in discussing other Israeli-Arab issues.

The writer is president and publisher of The Jerusalem Post.

Firming up the peace will never rank first on Egypt's agenda

Israeli relations came up, little room was left for speculation about these people's feelings.

Not only was there a sense that they were blaming Israel for almost everything that's wrong in the Middle East; in almost every sentence you could feel their basic antagonism toward Israel.

It was as if they wanted you to feel that you were a friend and most welcome as their guest - but you sensed that, to them, Israel still remains the cause of the Palestinians' problems, the cause of lack of progress on the Syrian track, even the cause of the "cold peace" with Egypt.

Egypt is the most important Arab state. Even if its attitude toward Israel isn't all we might hope for after 17 years of peace, we can still be grateful that the situation isn't any worse.

WEIZMAN didn't expect to change basic elements in the relations between the two countries, or to bring about a dramatic turn in the course of events in the Mid-



Technical fixes for security problems

JON SIMONS

RESPONDING to the gravity of the attack by Palestinians on reservist Shmuel Meiri in Ramallah last week, Prime Minister Rabin called the circumstances of the attack "a stupid situation."

Most of his ire was directed at those "who created the situation in which a soldier gets stuck in something like this" and who "create the conditions in which [Meiri] would make a mistake."

Perhaps Rabin was referring to the absence of adequate signs warning Israelis that they are about to enter dangerous areas. Perhaps he would join with Meiri's family in demanding that the army provide transportation for all soldiers traveling to and from their bases. In other words, perhaps the premier was suggesting a technical fix to a security problem.

It is quite fashionable to suggest technical fixes to deal with armed attacks on Israelis. There was a feeling after the Tel Aviv bus bomb that something needed to be done - perhaps putting an armed guard on each bus.

A few years ago, at a time of high tension in Jerusalem, police vehicles demonstrated their presence by constantly flashing their blue lights.

It has also been suggested that owners of private guns carry them at all times, while every now and again there is a public debate about changing the rules according to which soldiers and citizens may open fire in the event of a life-threatening situation.

SUCH TECHNICAL fixes will fix nothing. They may temporarily reassure some of the public that security is being tightened - but they actually reinforce the underlying sense of insecurity by giving the impression that we are all in constant danger of attack.

This is precisely the goal of the terrorist groups, who know they have no chance whatsoever of posing a real military threat to Israel. But every time a politician or security expert suggests yet another technical response which would amplify the feeling of siege, they learn afresh that they

have the means to undermine Israel's sense of security.

Technical fixes don't work because they don't deal with the underlying conditions in which attacks occur.

In his statement, Rabin more or less made the same point, by arguing that the mix between Is-

They're fashionable. But the answer lies in the hearts and minds of the Palestinians

raelis and Palestinians in the territories is the context in which the Meiri incident occurred. Over the years, he said, facts have been created which are difficult to correct.

This does not mean that we should simply resign ourselves to violent attacks. Rabin's proposal is to push on to a permanent solution which would end Israeli oc-

cupation.

A permanent solution cannot consist of absolute separation between Israelis and Palestinians, as Rabin would have it. The correct strategy is to seek a political solution to the morass we are now in. When in a quagmire, find a way out instead of trying to keep your boots clean.

Yet there is more that could be done in the meantime in the way of efforts to deal with extremist groups. As always, the answer lies not in technical fixes but in the hearts and minds of the people.

The Palestinian hard core will remain implacable enemies, but what about those crowds of sympathizers who cheer on extrem-

ists staging reenactments of Nahshon Wachsmann's kidnapping? We should not assume that every individual in the crowd is a sworn enemy of Israel.

Is it that surprising that a population cut off from its means of subsistence in Israel by the closure - another technical fix to security problems - enthusiastically support acts of violence?

Israeli and Palestinian leaders need to work together to find practical, intermediate solutions to Palestinian hardship and Israeli fears, in order to isolate the extremists and restore public confidence in the peace process.

The writer teaches political science at the Hebrew University.

Mubarak's worry

TEDDY PREUSS

WHEN President Weizman invited President Mubarak to visit Israel, Mubarak replied, like a bashful maiden, "I really want to come, but not the day after tomorrow, because I have to shower. And not next week, because I'm having my hair done."

Actually, what he said was more like: With great pleasure, but not now, because it might hurt the negotiations with Syria.

Mubarak's concern has to be taken with a grain of salt. In the 13 years he has stood at Egypt's helm, he has visited most of the Arab countries, and many others worldwide, without worrying that his hosts' relations with Syria would be harmed. And that was so even when Egypt was ostracized in the Arab world.

Over this period, several Israeli heads of state have visited Egypt, and numerous foreign leaders have visited Israel. Israel has had contacts with Syria and other Arab countries - including visits - and King Hussein and Yasser Arafat have signed agreements with Israel.

Several Arab states have opted for "three-quarters diplomatic relations" with Israel, without worrying that their actions would harm Israeli-Syrian negotiations.

Nor did Mubarak's predecessor Anwar Sadat worry. He visited Israel three times. Was it for the damage he did to Israeli-Syrian relations that he paid with his blood?

Only Mubarak, it seems, is worried about talks with Syria being endangered. And so, not to tempt fate, he has decided to postpone paying at Al-Aksa and visiting Yad Vashem.

In 1960, after Adolf Eichmann was abducted in Argentina and brought to Israel for trial, the official Israeli announcement said: "A group of Israeli volunteers met Eichmann, and after some persuasion, he agreed to come and stand trial in Jerusalem." Some cynics responded that the Ministry of Tourism would be putting out a new poster saying, "Eichmann came of his own free will. What about you?"

Israel is a free country. No one is going to kidnap Egypt's president and force him to come here. All the same - and not to mention the two in the same breath - Mubarak's "longing" to visit Israel is more than a little reminiscent of Eichmann's "free will."

The writer is a senior journalist at Davar.

The trauma of an ambush

YECHIEL SPIRA

IT was the spring of 1988. I was our settlement's driver. One of my duties was to transport teachers from the Gush Shilo area to their jobs in the community of Ofra.

The white Ford Transit with "Eli" in green letters was well known to the residents of the village of Mazrat El-Sharqiyyah, the village I drove through several times a day on my way to and from Ofra. My daily schedule never varied.

One day, close to noon, as I was making my way toward the intersection that connected the end of Mazrat with the main road to Ofra, I encountered my first intifada roadblock.

My van hit a meter-high stone wall and the engine stalled. A group of 12 to 15 Arab youths had set me up. Before I knew what was going on, the rocks were flying. I felt a sudden, intense pain on the left side of my face.

I was now on the floor of the

vehicle. My brain was saying, "Get up - shoot!" But my body didn't respond.

I don't recall how much time passed. Then I heard shots. A resident of Ofra, Pinchas Wallenstein, head of the Binyamin Regional Council, had seen the Eli van stuck near the exit from Mazrat and come to see what was wrong. He immediately understood what was going on and opened fire at the Arabs. He saved my life.

After seeing the news accounts of IDF soldier Shmuel Meiri driving into the center of Ramallah earlier this month and being attacked, I began to reflect on my own experience.

It is easy, with hindsight, to say what Meiri should have done. I understand the army's position that an IDF soldier in a life-threatening situation has an obligation to use his weapon.

But had Meiri fired his weapon, he would have killed or injured many of his attackers. What would have happened after his ammunition ran out?

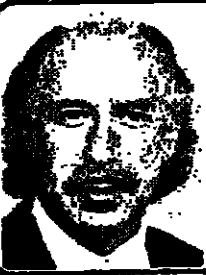
Meiri shouldn't have been judged by his TV statements soon after the attack. I do not believe he could have been fully lucid after suffering a head trauma which necessitated hospitalization. He took too many blows to the head to have been in anything like a normal state of mind. I too walked out of an attack, but wasn't myself for almost a month.

The road to Mazrat has been closed to Jews by the IDF since my attack. Ramallah has suffered the same fate. This seems to be the new Israeli answer to terrorism, closing off the area to Jews. Let us pray the next lynching isn't in Jerusalem.

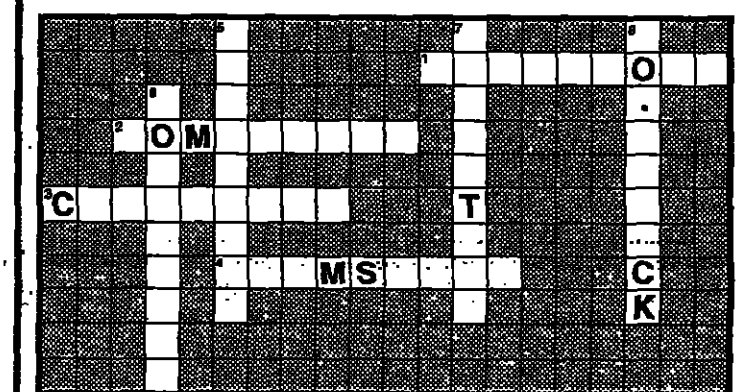
The writer is a resident of Eli.

TORA DOJO IN ISRAEL

An article on this subject appeared in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on December 16. Those interested are invited to contact Gidon Maronovsky (Dan 2) of the Martial Arts Institute, Givatayim, Tel. 09-989508.



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POSTSCRIPT

Russia denies sacking commanders in Chechnya

News agencies
GROZNY

WAVE after wave of Russian jets pummeled the Chechen capital with bombs and rockets yesterday, while Russian artillery indiscriminately lobbed shells into the burning city.

Meanwhile in Moscow, the Russian Defense Ministry denied reports that top armed forces commanders in the breakaway republic of Chechnya had been sacked. Itar-Tass news agency said.

Ministry officials told Tass the reports - carried by Tass and RIA news agencies - were "disinformation aimed at destabilizing the situation in the North Caucasus."

The reports said Defense Minister Pavel Grachev had fired six of the top military commanders in charge of operations in Chechnya and took over direct command of the campaign himself. Tass quoted a source in Moscow, the southern Russian headquarters for the campaign, as saying the armed forces had been told to step up shelling and bombing of Chechen strongholds.

RIA news agency said the sacked commanders had been dismissed for "indecisiveness and inaction". The defense ministry declined to comment.

The bombardment of Grozny was the heaviest yet and repre-

sented a major escalation in Russia's assault on the capital. It also was the first daylight raid by Russian war planes.

At least two dozen people were killed, and terrified Grozny residents fled the city for nearby hills. People desperately flagged down cars. Women and children rode on sacks of flour on trailers being dragged by tractors.

People ran through the streets seeking shelter in doorways as jets swept low overhead. Smoke billowed over the city from the numerous explosions, which at one point came every 30 seconds. People slipped on the shards of glass sprayed across icy pavements.

Bewildered Chechen fighters stood at their positions, not firing and wondering what to do. Anti-aircraft guns were silent due to an ammunition shortage.

It was impossible to determine how many jets were involved in the repeated attacks because of the low clouds, but one correspondent counted 12 planes.

Russia has stepped up air raids on Grozny not only to attack strategic targets but also to crush the will of the people, military experts in Moscow said yesterday.

The Russian air force maintains that it is making pin-point attacks on particular targets and is trying to avoid high death tolls.



UN French soldiers investigate the site of yesterday's mortar attack in Sarajevo that killed two and injured seven. (AP)

Two dead in Sarajevo shelling

SRECKO LATAL
SARAJEVO

TWO shells slammed into a Sarajevo market yesterday killing at least two people and wounding seven others, just one day before an agreed cease-fire in Bosnia.

The attack came only two hours before the arrival of UN special representative Yasushi Akashi for talks on implementing the truce, negotiated by ex-US President Jimmy Carter. The attack and fighting in three other UN-designated safe areas cast doubt on whether Carter's peace efforts would bear fruit.

An angry Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic told Akashi about the attack on the market. Akashi called it a "brutal violation and outrageous."

The shells hit a flea market located on a parking lot in Sarajevo's Old Town just behind the burned-out National Library and City Hall, where Sarajevans sell personal belongings to raise cash.

A UN spokeswoman, Capt. Myriam Sochacki, said French UN patrols and military observers rushed to the market to investigate the attack, which occurred shortly after 9 a.m.

A few large pools of blood could be seen in the fresh snow. Second-hand clothes and tins

of food lay scattered about.

There was no immediate word on who fired, but the scene of the attack is located just below Mount Trebevic, held by Bosnian Serbs, and it was unlikely mostly Muslim government troops would fire on their own.

Officials at Kosevo hospital said the two dead were men. Two hospitals reported a total of seven wounded in the attack.

A single shell killed a total of 69 people last February at another Sarajevo marketplace. That incident prompted NATO to issue an ultimatum for Bosnian Serbs to remove heavy weapons from within a 20 km radius of Sarajevo or face air strikes.

Serb forces generally complied, bringing months of relative calm to the besieged Bosnian capital. Fighting picked up in October, as Bosnian Serbs retaliated for government successes on other fronts.

Upon arrival, Akashi began a meeting with the Bosnian government on implementing the

cease-fire. He was also scheduled to visit the Bosnian Serb headquarters in the nearby town of Pale.

Akashi hoped to arrange a meeting at Sarajevo airport today to start what officials hope will be a four-month or longer truce.

Before departing for Pale, he said agreement on a cease-fire as "very close." But he suggested that the atmosphere was frosty during talks with Bosnian government leaders, describing the discussions as "businesslike."

Freshly fallen snow on Wednesday appeared to have slowed fighting, but UN field reports yesterday made clear that the guns were far from silent in Bosnia.

In Sarajevo, there were scattered exchanges of mortar fire along the front line, said UN spokesman Lt. Col. Gary Coward. Bosnian Serbs also fired about nine mortar rounds inside the safe area of Gorazde.

In Bihac, three homemade rockets were fired into that safe area, but Coward said only one exploded, causing no casualties.

Bosnian Serb gunners also fired 17 tank rounds into the Zepa "safe zone," also in the east. (AP)

Injured man held in subway bombing

NEW YORK (AP) - A man critically injured by a firebomb that shot flames through a crowded New York City subway car was arrested in his hospital bed yesterday and charged with attempted murder and assault.

Edward J. Leary, a 49-year-old unemployed computer operator from Scotch Plains, N.J., was charged with 45 counts. The bomb went off in his hands, Police Commissioner William Bratton said.

The bomb exploded Wednesday as the subway was stopped in a station, just one block east of the World Trade Center, where a terrorist bomb killed six people and hurt 1,000 in February 1993.

Leary was under police guard at Cornell Medical Center, where he was in critical condition with burns to his face, knuckles and legs.

Leary became a suspect when he left the scene of the blast in lower Manhattan. He was found about three km away in the borough of Brooklyn, in pain and with his pants scorched and in tatters.

He was one of four passengers critically injured. Detectives questioned him overnight, and state and federal investigators along with New York City officers searched Leary's home in New Jersey, returning later yesterday to search further. Police would not say what they found.

A residence in Brooklyn also was searched, Bratton said. Leary owns property in Brooklyn.

Bratton would not comment on a possible motive.

Police said they were investigating if there was any link between the explosion and another that injured two teenagers Friday on a Harlem subway line.

"The most we can say right now is that both devices were homemade concoctions," Police Chief Michael O'Connor said yesterday.

N. Korea hands over US pilot's body

PANMUNJOM (AP) - An American airman held by North Korea after his helicopter went down could be home by Christmas, a congressman said yesterday after helping negotiate the return of the body of the chopper's other pilot.

The communist state promised only "very soon" for the release of Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall, said US Rep. Bill Richardson.

But in remarks on NBC television's "Today" show, Richardson added: "I think he's in good

shape and I think he'll be home before Christmas."

Earlier yesterday, Richardson accompanied the rough reddish-brown casket carrying the body of Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon as the North Koreans handed it over at the border crossing in the truce village of Panmunjom.

Hilemon and Hall were aboard an unarmed US Army OH-58C helicopter that strayed into North Korean territory last Saturday while on a routine training mission.

Liberian peace accord signed

ACCRA (AP) - Five years into a war that has ravaged Africa's first republic and decimated the population, Liberian warlords have agreed to surrender their arms.

The militia leaders sent their shattered country a Christmas message of hope by pledging to end civil war, but there was little rejoicing by ordinary Liberians who have seen many such deals fall apart.

The latest agreement, signed in the Ghanaian capital Accra, calls for a cease-fire from midnight on December 28 and elections on November 14, 1995.

The pact offered hope because all seven warlords signed it. Ghanaian foreign ministry spokesman Kwame Amua-Awuah called it "a Christmas gift to Liberians."

But it's a pact many fear could allow guerrilla leader Charles Taylor to launch a new siege of Monrovia, the capital. Many also worry this accord, like many in the past, will not hold despite its call for a cease-fire.

Even Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings, who helped broker the accord, was skeptical.

The United Nations estimates more than 150,000 people have been killed in Liberia since fighting began Dec. 24, 1989, when Taylor invaded from Ivory Coast.

The country was founded in 1847 by freed American slaves. It has 2.6 million people, but one out of every three now are refugees in neighboring states or displaced in their own country.

The warring factions have defied efforts of a Nigerian-led peacekeeping army, and fighting has continued despite numerous peace accords.

The power struggle began after a popular rebellion to oust dictator Gen. Samuel Doe, and after his death erupted into a full-scale tribal war.

In the latest accord, the warlords agreed to establish safe havens and buffer zones throughout Liberia and to schedule elections in November for a government to take office the following January.

The man who stands to benefit the most from the new agreement is Taylor, who has lost considerable ground since factional fighting intensified this year. Since mid-1990, Taylor had controlled about 90 percent of the country.

Seven European border controls to be eliminated

BERLIN (AP) - After years of delay caused by worries about crime and waves of refugees, border controls within Europe will be eliminated next March 26 - at least in seven of the 12 members of the European Union.

The accord "is a historic step on the way to full freedom of movement in all Europe and an increase in security for our citizens," Bernd Schmidbauer, the German minister responsible for European affairs, said yesterday in Bonn.

Ministers from the participating countries met in Bonn to complete the accord, which means that inner-European border controls which already have partially disappeared will fall away completely.

It applies from the Mediterranean to the North Sea. The par-

ticipants are Portugal, Spain, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands. Italy and Greece have said they will join when they overcome technical problems.

The only EU members not in the pact are Britain, Ireland and Denmark. Austria, one of three countries joining the EU in 1995, is expected to accept the elimination of border controls with EU countries, but new members Sweden and Finland haven't taken a position yet.

EU Commissioner Vanni d'Archirafi told reporters in Bonn the accord would prove to be a "politically critical mass" to convince other EU members to join.

With the open-borders deal comes a computer network giving the participants access to each

other's police and immigration files so that car thieves, for instance, won't be the major beneficiaries of the lack of border controls.

Officials say that in Germany alone, 8,000 computer terminals will have access to the data bank in the French city of Strasbourg.

The agreement has been in the works since 1985 when five of the countries declared they would strive to eliminate inner-EU border controls.

They met in the Luxembourg border town of Schengen, giving the deal the name Schengen Agreement.

Implementation was delayed repeatedly, from autumn 1992 to early 1993 to mid-1993 to early 1994. One cause was the end of the Cold War, which suddenly

gave travel freedom to East Europeans.

Another cause was trouble setting up the anti-crime computer network.

Immigration facilities at airports and rail stations had to be altered.

For citizens of the participating countries, the accord means they won't have to show a passport when they fly, drive or ride the train to another member country.

For travelers from outside, a visa for one of the countries will be enough to visit all the countries.

But travelers shouldn't forget to carry their passports at all times. Police practically everywhere are empowered to demand identification - including in border areas.

German TV: Neo-Nazi groups operating as charities

BONN (Reuters) - Several German neo-Nazi and far-right groups operate as charities, enjoying what amounts to tax-free status, a German television current affairs program reported yesterday.

ARD network's Panorama program reported that tax officials had been "extremely generous" in

assigning charitable status to organizations and often failed to uncover the far-right or neo-Nazi leanings of such applicants.

In a statement issued ahead of the broadcast last night, Panorama quoted Ruediger Hesse, spokesman for Lower Saxony state's anti-extremist police agency, as describing the situation as

"shocking."

In Lower Saxony, a group calling itself "Heide-Heim", literally "Heather Home", was listed as a charity but was in fact a meeting point for German and foreign neo-Nazis, Hesse told Panorama.

The program identified at least 10 other right-wing organizations posing as cultural, sports or social

clubs and enjoying tax advantages through their charitable status.

Police in a region of eastern Germany's north coast, meanwhile, reported yesterday that during the night that a gang of about 10 shouting "Foreigners Out!" threatened asylum seekers in a home for refugees.

Yes to Peace! No to Settlements!

Gebel Ghoneim is a hill on the outskirts of Beit Sahur.

The Israeli government has decided to build a new Jewish neighborhood at the site called Har Homa. For the first stage of construction, 600 dunams have been expropriated from Palestinian owners - Building a new neighborhood during the peace negotiations:

- * contradicts the spirit of the Oslo agreements.
- * threatens progress towards achieving the goals of Oslo.
- * damages the building of trust between the two peoples.

Join in a march with the residents of Beit Sahur to support the peace process and oppose the settlement on Har Homa.

Date: December 25, Hour: 4:00 PM (busses from Liberty Bell Park at 3:30)

PEACE NOW

Have rifle, will venture into the danger zone

Members of the Golani Brigade serving on the Lebanese border are highly motivated in performing their job, even if it's risky, David Rudge reports

IT'S a cold, muddy and deadly dangerous place to be, the security zone in south Lebanon, whether you're stationed in an outpost deep inside, or along the border from where you make regular forays into the rugged countryside of the Land of the Cedars.

Your friends and comrades are alongside, wherever you might happen to be. You have your helmet, flak jacket and the rest of the gear needed to protect you in your fighting mission.

You also have your most trusted ally, your rifle, and there's a more than outside chance you will have to use it in action. You may lose a friend, or even your own life, as has been demonstrated, seemingly all too often, recently.

The threat is ever-present. A lengthy sojourn in the security zone doesn't seem a happy prospect. Yet the young conscripts and regular army soldiers and officers who are deployed there and who must contend with the conditions and cope with the dangers on a daily basis say that because of the circumstances, the threats and most of all the challenge, Lebanon is precisely the place they want to be, especially now.

Here are the voices of Golani Brigade troops stationed along the border: "We didn't come here to play. It's not a kindergarten. We came here to do our jobs. If you didn't want to do it, you wouldn't be here. Nobody is forcing you," said Tzahi, one of the soldiers at the base.

"The aim of coming here is to protect the country in the best way you can. This is the *tachles* [bottom line]. It's what we have

been training for," he said.

Tzahi was off duty, but in his hands were a can of cleaning fuel and some rags he was taking to his friends so they could all clean their rifles - a kind of spare-time activity.

Before coming to Lebanon his unit had been stationed in Ramallah. "It's the same thing there. You have an aim to prevent terrorist activities and you do it to the best of your ability."

"You go on patrols, on foot patrols. If there are riots you run to the scene. You don't wait for it to get out of hand. You try and deal with it beforehand."

"It's the same thing here. You go [into South Lebanon] to find terrorist squads. You don't wait until they get to the border and set up an ambush and try to kill you. The whole aim is to find them and beat them before they get to you."

He revealed that during one patrol duty inside the zone they came across a roadside bomb. "One of the guys discovered a mine, just before he trod on it, and then, 150 meters farther on, we came across a roadside bomb, which was later destroyed."

The conversation was interrupted briefly by a friend coming from the washroom with the news "there's no water again." Tzahi and his friends laughed and made a joke about what appeared to be a frequent occurrence.

Where did he and his friends prefer to be, Ramallah or Lebanon?

"Lebanon, of course. In Ramallah you're in town. Here you're in the field. You can suddenly come across a gang of gun-



Precisely because of the threat and the challenge, Lebanon is where Golani Brigade soldiers want to be. (Haim Azouli)

men. How you cope with them, how you fight them, each in his own way and as a team. That's what it's all about."

How did they feel about fighting a war, while life went on as normal and people enjoyed themselves in Tel Aviv and other parts of the country?

"I live in the Tel Aviv area and I know there are a lot of people who understand the situation here and support what we're doing. They watch the news on the TV and they read the papers."

"Nevertheless, it's difficult to make the transition, and sometimes you wonder where you are when you go back on leave," said Tzahi.

Another of the soldiers, David Sharabi, belonged to a unit that was in the Taloussa area when Hizbullah bombed the position and Sgt. Kehati, also from the Givati Brigade, was killed. How did it feel?

"We ran towards the scene and opened fire in all directions. For me it was exciting. We want to make contact with the enemy. That's what it's all about," said Sharabi.

THE LOSS of Kehati in the Taloussa incident and Lt. Arik Ovadia in the Hizbullah ambush on the outskirts of Marjayoun last week - in which the Golani soldier subsequently killed all four

attackers - has not affected morale.

"We have to continue. We can cope with it because we understand and continue with our activities. What we have to do is help the family, stay in touch with them and try and visit as much as possible. They have to live [with the loss] and they suffer the pain most. We carry on with our job and we know [the possibility of being killed] is part of the job," said another soldier standing nearby.

Lavi Shavit, 20, echoed his comrades' comments: "We are here to protect the northern settlements. There are those who are opposed to peace. In the ter-

ritories it's Hamas, here in Lebanon it's Hizbullah. We will continue to give protection for as long as necessary or until a solution is reached," he said.

"There's isn't anybody here who really feels scared. You are just waiting for the moment when somebody will try to get to the border fence and we can give the answer as we have been taught," says Shavit. He added that there isn't anybody who wants to go home.

Sharabi, 19, admitted afterwards that he had felt "a bit nervous" when they came under fire near Taloussa, but the excitement of hitting back overrode everything else.

"The main thing was to show the Hizbullah that we were responding and not just sitting there and doing nothing. You don't take cover and hide from the missiles, otherwise we won't be fulfilling our task," he said.

"Our job is to hold the position, not to leave it and not give Hizbullah the feeling of a victory. What happened at Taloussa was exactly the opposite of what occurred at Tel Dabsha. At Taloussa they didn't take cover. They took up their positions and started to return fire."

"Hizbullah is a military organization today. It's well organized and has relatively sophisticated weapons. It has political, diplomatic and military groups."

"They might know the area better, but the question is who reacts better and who gives in first. We certainly won't be moved," he said.

In the meantime, parents sitting at home hear the news of another clash, another casualty. "Of course our parents are worried and scared about us being here, but we manage to keep them calm. We tell them about all the good experiences in the army, about our friends and all the positive things."

"It's nice to get home and tell your parents about it. They understand. They know army life is not a joke. They know I'm in Golani," added Sharabi.

One of the commanders at the base, Capt. Assaf, summed up the attitude of his soldiers. "All the soldiers here ask to go out on operations. There's not one here who doesn't want to. There might be some fear which accompanies each and everyone of us. It goes with the job, but it doesn't prevent us doing any activity that we have to carry out."

He stressed that if people in the northern settlements could live in peace and quiet, enjoy themselves and have to contend only with day-to-day problems such as the price of tomatoes, the soldiers stationed in the zone and along the border were doing their job properly.

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Clouds remain on horizon of ties with Egypt

Hosni Mubarak put out the red carpet for President Weizman this week. But, Batsheva Tsur reports, the Egyptian leader did not unroll it completely

THERE was stormy weather when we flew out of Israel, and we have returned to sunshine. Perhaps that is symbolic, President Ezer Weizman told reporters on Wednesday as the Air Force plane bringing him from Cairo touched down at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Weizman spent the flight back walking the aisles to chat with the press, but would not reveal if he had surprises in store.

On the face of it, Weizman had failed to get his quid pro quo during his 48-hour visit: a promise from President Hosni Mubarak to fix a date for his postponed visit to Israel. On this point, Mubarak made it clear that the road to Israel went through Damascus. "I will come as soon as I know this will further the peace process with Syria," Mubarak said emphatically in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*.

Weizman made no bones about the negative attitude of the Egyptian intelligentsia when he met the Egyptian press. But Mu-

barak told the *Post*: "We have removed all obstacles [to normalization]. It is a democracy. We cannot force people [to be pro-Israel]." He urged Israel to understand the psychological aspects. "It is not easy to heal the wounds of 50 years. You want to rush things."

SO WHY did Weizman, who has chalked up some 25 visits to Cairo, decide to go once more? Why did Prime Minister Rabin encourage him? And what was in it for the Egyptians who urged him to come?

"We can assume that there will shortly be additional developments designed to push the peace process forward which will not be totally unconnected with the visit and the almost marathon talks between the two presidents," Eytan Bentsur, the chief diplomat accompanying Weizman, said - Sphinx-like - on Wednesday.

The thaw was clearly beginning. But for the journalists, who spent most of the time away from the arena, it was hard to judge the interaction between the two

heads of state. Those lucky enough to enjoy a private interview with Mubarak found a charming host who appeared to have all the time in the world and a genuine interest in exchanging views with Israelis. Mubarak immediately put his guests at ease by talking informally and to the point.

Weizman congenially made himself available to brief the press. He also met with the Egyptian press. But there was no joint conference. So it was left to Bentsur, senior deputy director-general at the Foreign Ministry, to put the pieces together. He was full of praise for Egyptian hospitality toward the Weizmans. "It was a rich state visit symbolizing

the solidity of the peace treaty between the two countries."

He noted that the Weizmans were hosted - like US President Clinton - at the sumptuous Koba Palace, the official presidential guest house whose every room is filled with treasures.

Of the relationship between Mubarak and Weizman, who have known each other for 17 years, Bentsur said: "There was a great deal of intimacy in the talks.... There exists between them not only mutual respect and affection but the kind of camaraderie, the mystique which binds two men who have both been air force commanders and then gone on to even bigger things...."

and to the point."

The peace process was cardinal. But an extremely important aspect of the visit, Bentsur said, was the emphasis - mentioned by almost all the ministers with whom Weizman met - on bilateral relations. Among other economic projects currently being undertaken or discussed, there is a large joint gas venture under way, he noted. At the new industrial city 50 km from Cairo, called 10th of Ramadan (corresponding to October 6, 1973, the first day of the Yom Kippur War), Weizman met a dozen industrialists.

Both Weizman and Mubarak made it clear that Egypt is the regional Arab power, the pivot of the peace process, and that Mu-

barak is doing everything in his power to get the peace train back on the tracks.

ON TUESDAY, the sun came out from behind the clouds; that night, the Israeli president threw a cocktail party at the Semiramis Hotel on the Nile. The grand ballroom overflowed: Moslem clergy, the Sadat family, members of the diplomatic corps, cabinet members, a sprinkling of intellectuals and top army brass. Only the Mubarak were missing. The guests continued to linger, to take a picture.

A souk-shopkeeper-turned-businessman, who met Reuma Weizman first 16 years ago and remained in contact, flew in spe-

cially from Europe for the party. A conductor discussed how he could bring the Cairo Symphony Orchestra to play in Tel Aviv.

"This is the biggest gathering any Israeli has been able to draw in Cairo," a local observer said. "The Weizman charisma is working, and the intelligentsia is starting to come out of the closet."

EVEN a short glimpse of Cairo revealed the contrasts. Laborers packed like sardines in open vans, covering their heads with their coats in the biting winds, rode by the luxurious colonial-style villas and palaces in Heliopolis. Women in haute-couture outfits window-shopped, while others hid their faces behind veils. Men in galabiyas prayed outside elaborately decorated mosques as five-star hotels brought Christmas trees and Western tourists into their lobbies. The desert crept up on the heels of the sprawling, chaotic city of 10 million while pleasure cruises quietly glided along the ample waters of the Nile in downtown Cairo.

One of our guides said he'd like to visit Israel, but "Greece is cheaper." Another said he had to come "because of al-Aksa." A third knew Hebrew. "We have forgotten we were once enemies. You are just another country, with which we have normal relations," one of them said.

In the Meridien Hotel, the waiters were learning a few Hebrew words. "Erev tov [good evening]," said one as Israeli journalists entered for breakfast.

Susanna Mubarak was on hand when the presidential entourage was ready to take its leave on Wednesday. She was wearing the gold-and-emerald brooch given her by Reuma Weizman, on a green suit.

In an hour, the presidential plane landed in Israel and the sun was out. Weizman floated a trial balloon. He told a news conference that he was ready to fly any time to Damascus to meet Assad. Perhaps, then, Mubarak will come to Jerusalem?



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak greets 'Post' reporter Batsheva Tsur at his offices this week. (Hanoach Grizsky/Israel Sun)

US presence on the Golan would have a snowball effect

DURING his recent visit to the US, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin rebuffed mounting criticism of the possible placement of US forces on the Golan Heights in any Syrian-Israeli peace settlement.

As he pointed out, the idea of deploying Americans as peacekeepers is not new. Since 1982, the US has deployed an 800-man infantry battalion in southern Sinai as part of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO). The purpose of these forces is not to block an Egyptian armored thrust into Sinai, but rather to "monitor" the force-limitation areas created by the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

If all Rabin wants on the Golan Heights is another monitoring unit, then what is all the fuss among American conservatives about deploying American forces? And if all a Golan MFO will do is count tanks and artillery pieces in limited force areas, as in the Sinai, then on what basis can Rabin's own opposition be critical, seeing that the Sinai MFO was instituted by the Begin government?

But the real problem with US forces on the Golan is not connected with a replication of the Sinai MFO. What might start as an initial Israeli proposal for a monitoring force could easily escalate into a far more robust

Deploying US troops as peacekeepers would place Israel under American protection, Dore Gold writes

American military presence with far-reaching implications for the future of US-Israel relations.

The issue of Americans on the Golan is not just a ruse raised by the Israeli right to torpedo a Syrian-Israeli peace accord. Without careful planning, the offer of US troops could snowball into an arrangement that makes Israel's security largely dependent on the decisions of others.

Several factors are likely to expand the size and mission of any American deployment.

Firstly, one of the major lessons of American peacekeeping debacles in Lebanon and Somalia is to avoid putting under-equipped forces, with a highly constrained mission, in strategically problematic situations. For this reason, it is likely that American planners will insist that the US forces have at least a self-defense capability. A 1993 RAND study, commissioned by the American Defense Department, noted that this consideration will increase the size of a Golan deployment to a 5,000-man armored or mechanized brigade, at a minimum.

Secondly, the negotiating process itself could well expand the mission of any American Golan deployment. Rabin's concept of a safe withdrawal from the Golan Heights is predicated upon Israel

achieving highly intrusive "security arrangements" vis-à-vis Syria, as compensation for the loss of strategic terrain. The RAND study made a similar point, noting: "If Israel withdraws from the Golan Heights, preventing the possibility of an effective Syrian surprise attack is very difficult."

Should he go to a Camp David summit in 1995, with Assad and Clinton, Rabin is likely to seek to retain Israel's Golan early warning stations as extraterritorial facilities manned by the IDF.

Assad would look to the Sinai precedent when Israel abandoned its facilities and withdrew lock, stock and barrel. To avoid the likely impasse in such a scenario, Clinton could very well propose giving an American monitor force the added mission of providing Israel with early-warning data.

Rabin would undoubtedly remember Israeli-American conflicts over the interpretation of sensitive intelligence material.

In 1970, when Israel picked up the movement of the Soviet-Egyptian SAM screen up to the Suez Canal, American intelligence analysts denied that these violations of the recently achieved standstill agreement had occurred. The US wanted to protect the new status quo while Israel had a primary interest in

taking action to safeguard its security.

Despite the fact that such conflicting interests between the US and Israel would surface in a Golan arrangement, Rabin would be hard-pressed to resist Clinton's offer to put the US in Israel's early-warning loop. Thus, if "security arrangements" turn out to become deal-breakers, US forces would be called upon to provide a substitute form of security in lieu of Syrian concessions.

If Rabin were to seek deep demilitarization of southern Syria, as many Israeli reserve generals have suggested, Assad would resist such limitations on his national sovereignty. RAND took note of this problem: "A strict application of Sinai's zonal arrangements would be unacceptable to Syria, because it would leave Damascus relatively unprotected."

To avoid another deadlock, Clinton can be expected to propose to make up the difference with a more robust American armored force, to be interposed between the Syrian and Israeli armies: a trip-wire force that guarantees American retaliation against Syria, if it is challenged.

While Rabin has long preached that only Israel should be responsible for its security, by 1995 he will be so deep into the process that he will have a hard time turn-

ing down such an offer.

The difference between the MFO monitors of Sinai and what is likely to evolve on the Golan Heights is not just a matter of degree. The Sinai deployment of a lightly armed monitoring battalion represents an American political commitment to seeing that the "peace process" that it sponsored is carried through.

But the deployment of brigade-strength armored units on the Golan would entail Israel coming under American protection. Israel would not just be dependent on the US for aid, it would become dependent on the US for its defense.

There is a price to pay for this type of change. In September 1991, a hostile President Bush waved before the American Jewish community Israel's short-term dependence on American-manned Patriot batteries in the Gulf War, during his struggle with Israel over settlements and loan guarantees.

With a long-term American Golan deployment, American admiration of Israel for its national self-reliance in defense would undoubtedly erode. It would be tempting for a future administration to slash security assistance by arguing that it was no longer necessary, given America's protective umbrella.

Some Israelis might look at the historical role of American NATO forces in Germany, or the two US brigades in South Korea, as a model for a successful deterrent barrier that could be applied to the Golan Heights. The analogy, however, is incorrect.

During the Cold War, US forces were deployed in allied countries against an adversarial

Soviet bloc. But in a Golan mission, American forces would not be targeted against an adversarial Syria; in fact, as peacekeepers, they would have to observe strict neutrality between Jerusalem and Damascus.

Thus, US forces might collect early warning data on Syria for Israel; but they would also have to collect data on Israel for Syria. And as much as they would have to plan to stop a Syrian assault on Israel, these forces would have to prepare for the contingency of stopping an Israeli preemptive strike on Syria.

In this way, American forces on the Golan Heights could pull the US from a political position of clear strategic alignment with Israel to one of political neutrality. In other words, Israel would lose the Golan Heights and its exclusive strategic tie to the US as well.

At the heart of the US forces debate is the basic question of whether Rabin has a realistic model for protecting Israeli security after a Golan withdrawal that will be politically acceptable to the Syrian side. If such a model exists, then the American presence on the Golan Heights could be minimal, like the MFO monitors of Sinai.

But there is reason to be concerned that Rabin's model may not be workable. And, failing to obtain the security arrangements he has envisaged, he will face offers from the Clinton administration of a more sizable American military commitment.

The writer is the director of the US Foreign and Defense Policy Project, Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies - Tel Aviv University.

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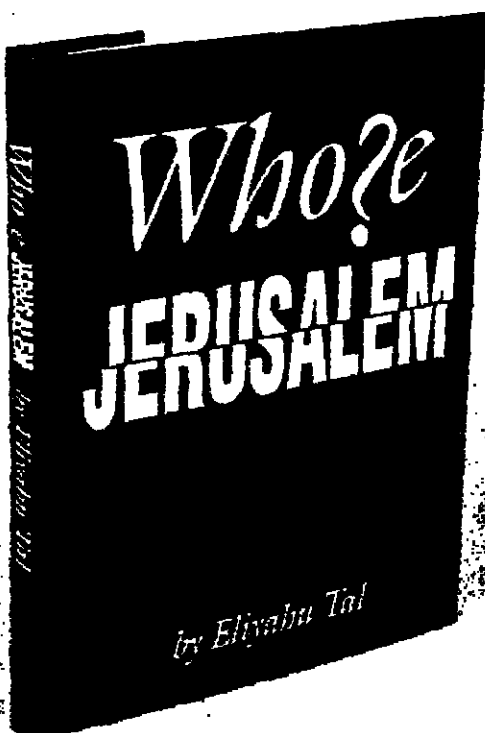
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Shimon Peres: We are not on Assad's agenda

Current quiet talks with Syria won't produce a breakthrough, Shimon Peres says, but an interim agreement with the Palestinians will be reached soon. David Makovsky interviewed the foreign minister

NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA
You always favored moving one front at a time. You've also said that 1996 is a dead year because of elections, so we're really faced with one year, 1995. Can Israel politically handle major concessions on both the Palestinian and Syrian fronts, or will it have to choose?

I think that in the coming few months, we shall agree with the Palestinians on the second stage, which will leave us free up to 1996. We can have, in 1995, negotiations with the Syrians. Starting this week, Israeli and Syrian military officers are joining ongoing quiet talks in Washington. Is this the type of format that can produce a breakthrough, such as when Moshe Dayan and Egypt's Hassan Tuhany met in Morocco in 1977?

This is not Dayan-Tuhany. Don't forget that Dayan was a foreign minister. It was an entirely different level. The way it stands now I think the Syrians are too slow and too low [level]. So you think that negotiations are not at a high enough level to produce a breakthrough?

Yes.

Then what is the value of the current talks?

First of all, none of us wants to cut the negotiations. We want the negotiations to move on. So even if it's at a low level, it's better to have low-level negotiations, as opposed to high-level non-negotiations.

How do you explain Assad's delay? Where is he miscalculating?

We are not on the agenda in his eyes. He has another agenda and that is the Arab world. He wants to demonstrate to the Arab world that he knows how to negotiate better than anyone else. So he is negotiating the way he thinks it should be negotiated.

But is it his view that Israel is so desperate for a deal that it will ultimately come around and accept his terms? He thinks that he is winning. The Americans are coming his way, the Russians are coming his way, the Europeans are coming his way, without him moving. So he feels maybe that's a good way. And then he probably thinks that the US can exercise much more pressure and "deliver" [Israel].

Are you saying maybe the US is not conducting these negotiations properly? And that too many visits there are only fueling Assad's miscalculation?

I don't think so. The [Americans] are holding the negotiations alive.

Rabin has defined the role of multinational force peacekeepers on the Golan Heights in very minimalist terms - monitors, like in Sinai. If their role is not important, given the possible sensitivities in the US, why do you need American peacekeepers for such a task, and not Canadians or some other nationality? Do you think deploying the US has a deterrence value against Syria, or is such a move basically geared to winning Israeli public opinion in any referendum?

If there is an American presence [in the multinational force], the temptation of the Syrians to overlook the presence will become extremely low. [Such troops would be] carrying more prestige than arms. I don't think it is such a big issue, as we can see [with] the multinational force in Sinai. It has a function, [and is] not costly.

It is symbolic. ... It is like having an American signature on a document [it's an endorsement]. Now, there will be an American signature on the map.

Do you think the Syrians are using Lebanon now to gain leverage in the Golan negotiations?

It is hard to say.... Clearly they are [always] using new weapons and new systems [in Lebanon]... [and] the Syrians are not particularly engaged in stopping them. We don't have any evidence that they are giving orders, but the air is clear for Hizbullah. There are times of more or less permissiveness.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH PALESTINIANS

As you negotiate the issue of redeployment, will you be guided by what you see Israel's final borders should be, or, alternatively, do you think the Palestinian Police should be deployed in every Arab population center throughout the territories?

I am negotiating. I am not ready to [reveal] the cards. I can say only the following things: We are not going to change or betray our ally who we signed



Peres: We are not going to change or betray the Palestinians, with whom we signed the agreement. (Isaac Harari)

the agreement with. An agreement can be changed only by an agreement. We don't want to depart from the DOP [Declaration of Principles]. I think the Palestinians understand that we have to learn some lessons from the experience in Gaza. We are looking for ways and means to secure the security of Israel. These are the guiding principles.

What about the idea of full redeployment everywhere at least for a three-day period of elections?

I don't think this is a serious proposal. We cannot come in and come out. We have to be more reasonable about it and three days are not sufficient.

When the idea of redeployment was reached in Oslo, it borrowed language from Camp David, but at the time of Camp David there were hardly any set-

ters in the area, now there are 120,000. Maybe you think Israel needs to revisit the idea of dismantling settlements even during the interim period? Do you preclude this?

I preclude it because whatever will happen with the settlements, it will never be a subject of negotiations between us and the Palestinians. Peace must be a clearly decided issue by Israeli law, not by the other side.

But you preclude Israel unilaterally doing so in the interim period?

I preclude it in the negotiations, full stop.

What about Hamas running in the elections?

Why does Hamas want to participate in the elections? Suppose they win, what are they going to do with the other

Palestinians? I mean, it doesn't make any sense. If they go to win in order to destroy the peace, [then] the elections are unimportant; there will be destruction, not elections.

A key question seems to be whether Yasser Arafat, the revolutionary, can make the transition to being a nation-builder. You've met him more than any other Israeli leader. Do you see a change in him? Maybe he's not capable. While he remains the overall head of the PA, maybe someone like Nabil Shaath should be given broad powers to run the day-to-day affairs?

First of all, we are not the book reviewers, [critiquing] the Palestinians. I think it is clear that they are embarking on the path of their administration and they can make their own decisions. We must be very careful not to give the impression that we are intervening in the running of Gaza life.

As someone who has gotten to know Arafat, what have you learned about the man that would assure Israelis he is genuine about peace? Do you regret elements of Oslo?

What I have learned is about what the Likud did, not what the man [Arafat] did. The difficulties we are having in Gaza and the West Bank is the map that the Likud tried to introduce, a map that doesn't permit peace negotiations.

So are negotiations impossible?

No. It's difficult, but it's not because of a single person, it's because of the nature of the map. And that's what makes it so complicated. And whoever is criticizing Oslo should really take their criticism and must really compare it to the alternative they are proposing.

The alternative is becoming worse and worse. When you look at the map demographically, between the Jordan River and the sea you have close to 3.5 million non-Jewish people and 4.3 million Jewish people. So I mean 60% against 40% is already the situation today and the rate of birth of the non-Jewish population is double ours. So who believes settlers, what are they talking about? It's sheer demagoguery, including the newspapers that support them.

Some think that your thinking of final status has shifted from a pure territorial compromise solution to a more functional powersharing sort of compromise. Is this true?

You have a 60-40 situation. Either you partition the land 60-40 or you create a government for the 40% that is 40% of the share.

The alternative is to use rifles and oppression, which I think is a mistake. I'm trying to think what is the best solution and which steps will lead to a permanent solution, because we [always] have in the back of our minds the third party - the Jordanians. So we have to work this out.

We must have a supranational economy and a supranational strategy, because the dangers today are not nations but problems, such as Islamic fundamentalism. I think that economically we should have a free trade zone that will comprise the Jordanians, the Palestinians and us. I imagine that we shall cooperate together against terror.

So when you say functionalism, you mean more in terms of economics, and cooperation, but politically we're still talking partition?

It is a combination of the two.

It seems that Israel has better relations with the Palestinians and the Jordanians than they have with each other. Doesn't this worry you? Doesn't this mean instead of your triangle, Israel will have to choose between them when it comes time to decide on the permanent status of the territories?

We want to see the Jordanians and Palestinians cooperating and growing together at least economically.

I don't think Hussein has met Arafat since the Oslo agreement.

He doesn't have to and we have to employ patience and not give up.

MIDDLE EAST ECONOMICS

Money does not seem to be pouring in for your Jordan Rift Valley project.

This money is basically for the feasibility studies. In the meantime we are working on [obtaining] the rest of the money.

What about the multilaterals on regional cooperation? The Israeli public was sold on the idea of European and Japanese assistance for major infrastructure projects. It has been three years. It's a big disappointment.

We are now building institutions. For example, a regional bank is the legitimate child of Casablanca. Or for the first time, we met in Budapest with five Mediterranean countries and European countries in a CSCE-type [Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe] meeting.

How concerned are you about the confrontation with the Egyptians over the issue of renewal of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT)?

The Egyptians say they won't want to sign unless Israel signs.

We don't make any conditions. Let the Egyptians decide if they are signing or not. We have decided it for ourselves. We won't sign because until now Israel was never attached to any geographic part. We are floating in the air. And because we say that if Iran and Iraq signed the NPT, we are worried [about the treaty's validity]. And thirdly, some people would like us to clarify where we stand. [But] if a fog is part of a deterrent, let's keep the fog.

Are we willing to say that we will consider it down the road?

Consider it, yes, once we have peace.

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a. Travel and Parking Restrictions and Arrangements - Bethlehem

1. Entrance to the Bethlehem area will be prohibited for

vehicles without proper parking labels. Cars with the

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restricted areas.

2. During the Patriarch's procession from Jaffa Gate to

Bethlehem, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., travel on the

Jerusalem-Hebron road will be restricted in both

directions, within the Bethlehem municipal area.

3. Parking on Manger, Ras Patis and Wadi Maali streets will

be prohibited. Parked cars will be towed away. Parking

arrangements in the city of Bethlehem will be according

to police instructions.

b. Transportation Arrangements

1. Buses:

From 8:00 a.m. on December 24, 1994, until 11:00 p.m.,

tourists in small groups and other visitors will travel to the

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From 3:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., the same day, there will

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Rabin makes Labor hearts go flip-flop

The PM's zigzagging on the capital-gains tax continues a trend which has his colleagues worried, Sarah Honig writes

A Labor Party minister this week likened Prime Minister Rabin's plight on the stock-exchange tax to that of "a man sinking fast in quicksand and making frantic movements, but the more he thrashes about, the deeper he goes. There is no move he can make which will help him."

Rabin made the wrong decision on the tax, according to the minister, who unwaveringly supported the implementation of the tax on schedule.

"Had he made the reverse decision, it too would have been the wrong one," the minister continues. "There was no decision which Rabin could have made which would have been the right one. After the dizzying two-week seesaw ride to which he subjected the nation's frayed nerves, there was nothing he could do right."

This minister isn't the only Labor politician to come away from the capital-gains tax episode with "a very bad feeling in the pit of the stomach" and a feeling of déjà vu. Rabin's about-faces are evident in issues from the Golan to national health insurance.

"This is hardly what would inspire the public to retain confidence in this government and in the credibility of the man at the helm," the minister says.

The chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee, Gedalya Gal, campaigned for the implementation of the tax. While Rabin toured the Far East, Gal organized a powerful lobby to back Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's campaign to save it.

Gal should be happy with the outcome, but he isn't. "This same decision... could have been made two weeks earlier," he says. "We were given a lesson how for two long weeks, for no reason whatever, the nation can be given the impression that the sky is falling."

LABOR WAS already in the throes of depression before the stock-market tax was given top billing on the national agenda. In the aftermath, the Labor blues are several shades deeper. On both sides of the tax tug-of-war, there appear to be "unrelenting doubts about the quality of Ra-



Shohat: A member of the Rabin camp far removed from party intrigues. (Isaac Harari)

bin's leadership," the minister explains. "He was the man who promised to decide, to navigate, to lead."

"But rather than lead and navigate, Rabin was very clearly led in this episode. Shohat was pulling him one way and [the Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office Shimon] Sheves was pulling him the other way."

"Rabin first opposed the tax and, like George Bush in the read-my-lips speech, promised the electorate that it would never be imposed. But then he gave in to Shohat when he was told that the tax would bring in money and cut inflation. He didn't try to protect his credibility."

"After the tax was adopted in the Knesset, Sheves convinced Rabin that its income and inflation-cutting properties were negligible in comparison with the loss of credibility and the fall of popularity," the minister complains.

Sheves was armed with weighty evidence: Rabin's decline in the polls. The anti-tax forces were most powerful when Rabin was on the other side of Asia, far from Shohat and in constant contact with Sheves and the local tycoons Rabin took with him, all of whom vehemently opposed the new tax.

Here came what Gal calls "the inexplicable and shameful episode when for days Shohat

seemed even unable to reach Rabin by phone to Japan." Shohat wanted a statement from Rabin denying that he had changed his mind on the tax or was considering sacking Shohat.

When Rabin finally did take Shohat's call, he said nothing to calm his anxieties and the furor continued unabated.

When Rabin returned home, and when Shohat got the hearing he demanded, he told Rabin that backing away from a law adopted by the Knesset would be even more disastrous to his credibility. Rabin was swayed by the argument. Yet a source in his office says: "Rabin is a very angry man for the mess others got him into."

LABOR PUNDITS maintain that it is erroneous to depict Shohat as the winner in the tax war.

He did evince surprising determination and amassed an impressive ad-hoc coalition around him. But Shohat remains a member of the Rabin camp far removed from party intrigues. Nevertheless the consensus in Labor is that the episode did not make Shohat the party's newest strong man, but did make Rabin a loser.

The capital-gains tax "zigzag," as Shohat called it, reminds many in Labor of what happened with the National Health Insurance bill. Rabin first enthusiastically favored such a bill, but faced with opposition from the old Histadrut oligarchy and Shimon Peres, he put his weight behind foiling it. He thereby lost the Histadrut to maverick Haim Ramon. Then he came around to supporting the bill.

Now, on the eve of the bill's implementation, Rabin is again having second thoughts, reports one very senior source, "having understood that the bill will end up being very unpopular in a number of months, when members of the public discover that they will be paying a lot more for health insurance but getting a lot less. Since the discovery will coincide with elections drawing near, this could be a time bomb."

The Labor minister agrees: "Rabin will find himself in yet another muddy mess in which he cannot make a right move to extricate himself."

David: Patron saint of British royalty

THE king is dead, long live the king. Long live the controversy - which in King David's case raged through the Knesset in the drama of the week.

Certainly a Jewish hero - but saint or sinner? It depended on which of his latter-day courtiers or enemies one listened to. The storm of hysteria swirled around David's memory like Uriah's revenge.

If you think the Israeli public was at a loss to follow what it was all about, spare a thought for the poor foreign correspondents trying to explain to bewildered readers and listeners overseas why a democratic government was facing a confidence vote over a biblical incident.

If the red-haired, doe-eyed king remains a hero for all that, the sinister Shimon Peres was surely evil incarnate for daring to allude to what the naughty king did on the rooftops.

The story every child learns in school suddenly became one of the *Salman Verses*, and Peres was Judaism's Salman Rushdie, as overexcited MKs strained for metaphors horrendous enough for the lofty debate.

"And there was but one there present to rise to Shimon's side, and he was named Shetreet of the tribe of Likud."

Braving the religious and hard-edited onslaught, Meir Shetreet staunchly defended the foreign minister's sacred secular right to freedom of expression - especially concerning a king who was so roundly condemned in the Bible itself. David's deeds could have led him to being adopted as the patron saint of British royalty.

The Knesset rejection of the religious parties' no-confidence vote by a comfortable margin of 15 could of course be seen as a vote of confidence in Peres's utterances - but who would dare say it?

The affair was finally put to rest - 3,000 years too late - appropriately enough by Justice Minister David Liba'i: "Indeed," he declared, "King David lives on."

The king is dead. Long live the Knesset.

GOING, GOING, GOLAN

Enter yet another national savior. MK Ariel Sharon declared that a future Likud government will not keep any peace accord Rabin signs with Syria, and would cancel any evacuation of Golan settlements.

Sharon, who some claim evaded cabinet control over his invasion of Lebanon, went on to charge that IDF soldiers and commanders in south Lebanon have become "tools in the hands of cynical politicians."

THE WEEK THAT WAS

MICHAEL YUDELMAN



Netanyahu (above right) refuses to nibble at Sharon's (above left) bait; King David lives on; Shalom is too old to be a young Turk. (Isaac Harari, Hanoah Orizisky/Israel Sun, Uzi Koren)



In a clear challenge to Bibi Netanyahu, Sharon called for the entire right-wing camp to hold open primaries for a joint leader in the next Knesset elections. He himself... ahem... would of course feel it his patriotic duty to...

Bibi unsurprisingly declined to nibble the bait. Sharon's intervention was spurred by the cloak of secrecy enveloping the renewed talks with Syria in Washington this week. Sharon believes all the reports of problems on the Syrian track are no more than a smoke-screen of disinformation to hide the fact that Rabin and Assad are very close to an agreement.

THE YOUNG AND THE TURKS

On Sunday, the Likud's Young Turks will hold their first convention in 14 years. The old leadership under Yitzhak Shamir did not exactly encourage dynamism in party institutions, but with Netanyahu in command, the ar-



thritis is now easing. For several years, young members have been leaving the stagnating, internally tattered Likud to join Tsomet, Tehiya, Moledet - even Labor and Meretz. But convention chairman MK Silvan Shalom, after a census, now has a list of 1,800 delegates under 35. They will elect a new roster of officials; Uri Aloni, Netanyahu's candidate, is considered certain to emerge from total obscurity to the semi-obscure of Young Guard chairman.

Shalom himself just misses qualifying as a Young Guard, having overshot his 36th birthday by three months. He is hardly a realistic role model for the ambitious young hopefuls. Instead of starting as a young pamphlet-carrier and clawing his way up to the Knesset, he more cleverly began at the top. After a brief dabble in journalism and a little job as Electricity Board chairman for a few months, he was elected MK at 34.

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

French millionaire Jean Friedman this week called on the Histadrut to enter into speedy negotiations to sell him *Davar*. He said he would model it on *Ha'aretz*, rather than the more populist *Ma'ariv* or *Yediot*. Friedman is a fan of the distinguished *Le Monde* and the newer, high-quality *Liberation*.

This followed the triumph of the young and restless journalists in favoring Friedman over their rival group, the old and resting journalists who want to slither off with as much severance pay as possible. They want Netanyahu businessman Yitzhak Tshuva with his better retirement terms.

Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon has made it clear he has no intention of keeping the wage agreement which the Histadrut had signed with *Davar's* veteran workers, especially the generous retirement packages for seniors.

CABBAGES AND KINGS

Yitzhak Rabin is expected to resolve the musical-chairs cabinet shuffle by today but is also toying with a better idea. Instead of reshuffling his dukes, he can take over their dukedoms.

He returned from Asia to seize the reins of the bolting stock market, which slipped from his finance minister's numbed fingers. On the way back he thought he might like to take over agriculture as well by heading a special ministerial committee on fruits and vegetables. Despite the cabbage-patch jokes about who would be cucumber or tomato ministers, cabinet sources were concerned.

Clearly, Rabin has little trust, bordering on none, in his ministers. Is this some return to David-style monarchy? Rabin already holds the defense, interior and religious portfolios.

BACK TO THE ROOFTOPS

Sorry to mention it again but... If King David were around today could he afford a rooftop today could he afford a rooftop in Kfar Shmaryahu or Herzliya Pituah? He might, however, manage to fix BatSheva up with a reasonable penthouse in the new northern Tel Aviv quarter of Azorei Chen. It's fast becoming "in" if not for royalty, at least for those well-known "diplomatic circles."

The Mexican Embassy rented a "penthouse" there for a paltry \$3,300 a month. Senior US and Greek diplomats have found five-room apartments for around \$2,000. Will these diplomats sniff at envoys from Britain, Switzerland and Argentina with their down-market four-roomers for a mere \$1,400?

Law dean: Get secular-traditional cultural struggle out of court

THE High Court of Justice ruling three weeks ago which determined that El Al must offer equal benefits to homosexual and heterosexual live-in partners has resulted in a field day of controversy over the court's role.

In an unprecedented move, three justices - Meir Shamgar, Aharon Barak and Yitzhak Za-

mir - publicly responded to the attacks, speaking out within a few days. Zamir warned "there are serious threats to the independence of the judiciary, judicial authority, and the ability of the judiciary to function as it has in the past." This was after MKs Yigal Bibi (NRP) and Shlomo Benizri (Shas) demanded that the court's prerogatives be curbed

Jewish values don't contradict democratic ones, Tel Aviv University law dean Ariel Rosen-Zvi tells Dan Izenberg

and Supreme Court Deputy President Barak he denied succession to the presidency - or that his term be drastically reduced.

The court is also under fire from Prime Minister Rabin, who has frequently castigated it for obstructing government programs, and who speaks for the executive power in general; from primarily secular MKs concerned about the Knesset's turf and the system of checks and balances; and from the religious community. The latest ruling antagonized not only the haredim, who have never accepted the authority of

the Supreme Court, but also many members of the religious-Zionist community. MK Hanan Porat warned that the ruling on homosexuals could lead to a total rupture between the religious Zionists and the court.

For the religious community, what is involved - as Attorney-General Michael Ben-Ya'ir said earlier this week - is "the world and all it contains.... It goes to the very heart of the nation and the state."

According to Prof. Ariel Rosen-Zvi, a religious Zionist who is dean of the Tel Aviv University

law faculty, there are two reasons for the religious community's increasingly vocal attacks on the court.

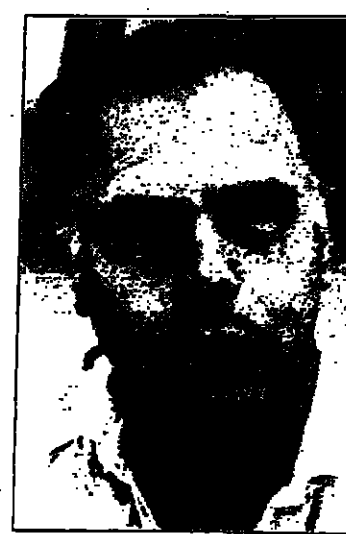
"One thing that has changed in recent years is the rhetoric of the court, not only in Israel, but throughout the world," Rosen-Zvi said. "We are no longer hiding behind formalistic arguments, but are ready to tell the truth, that judges do deal with values, that making decisions means to balance values and assess them by giving each one a specific weight according to its importance in society." According to him, this rhetoric frightens religious leaders and makes it impossible for them to continue ignoring the court's liberal decisions.

The second change was the promulgation in 1992 of the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation and Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom. According to Rosen-Zvi, many MKs did not realize the constitutional significance of what the Knesset was doing in passing the laws.

"Some of them are having second thoughts," he said. "They are beginning to realize that these laws were enacted with a minimum of public debate."

The shouting of Bibi and Benizri, the reactions of Shamgar, Barak and Zamir, and the discussion of Knesset-Supreme Court relations now under way in the Knesset Law Committee, are part of this belated debate.

But the religious community has a specific problem. If indeed



Rosen-Zvi: One thing that has changed in recent years is the rhetoric of the court.

the Supreme Court deals with values, "the religious parties feel their values are not represented on the Supreme Court and that the Jewish values do not get their fair weight against what are called democratic values," Rosen-Zvi said. "For the first time, the constitution has become the arena of the struggle over the Jewishness of Israel."

HE IS NOT happy over this development. He believes there is no contradiction between Jewish and democratic values, and the cultural struggle between secularists and traditionalists should take place outside the courts and outside parliament. Nevertheless, he is concerned about the current composition of the court.

"There is an underrepresentation of the religious population, and some segments of the religious public feel a bit alienated from the Supreme Court," he

said. "It's a new phenomenon and constitutes a great danger, since the Supreme Court can act only if it has the confidence of all or at least the main sectors of the population."

Rosen-Zvi acknowledges there has been a growing polarization between religious and secular Jews over the past decades, and the increasing gap affects the court as it does all aspects of public and political life. But he says it does not have to be this way.

"I myself think there is no contradiction between the Jewishness of Israel and its being a democracy," he said. "I think our traditional sources introduced the main concepts of human rights. You can find in our sources the roots of the dignity and autonomy of man and his freedom vis-à-vis others. There is a very famous notion that people are not slaves of other people. They are slaves of the Almighty and they all are creatures of the Almighty and therefore all of them, Jews and non-Jews, men and women, are equal before God."

"I am concerned that part of the religious population has become less democratic and part of the secular population has become less Jewish. So the distance between them has increased and the common cultural denominator of the past has weakened."

"I think the secular part of the population has to be more aware of its illiteracy on Jewish subjects and sensitivities, and this must be the focus of education and culture. The religious part of the population has to be engaged in finding bridges between Jewishness and democracy. Otherwise, the polarization between secular and religious will endanger the very delicate texture of Israeli society."

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The writer is national president of the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America.

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YOUR MONEY

NEIL COHEN

STOCK-market mania hits even *Jerusalem Post* readers — despite our repeated warnings.

A few weeks ago Irv (not his real name) called me. I don't give consultations, but he was in such distress I agreed to see him later that afternoon.

Irv is in his early seventies, his wife in her late sixties. They immigrated from the US years ago and although Irv does a little part-time work, they are retired. They own their car and home outright and have no dependent children.

They receive Israeli and American state pensions, have about \$40,000 on deposit in a bank in the US, and about NIS 70,000 in a provident fund. As of two years ago they also had about NIS 250,000 in liquid savings. All this was enough to provide for a decent retirement.

Irv, it seems, had been enticed by the recent stellar performance of the local market. So he and his wife put the entire NIS 250,000 with a fund manager at one of the country's biggest brokerage houses.

Within a year their money had more than doubled, to NIS 550,000. Though Irv's wife suggested they quit while they were ahead and invest the money in an apartment, he decided to try to double his money again.

When he called me, he was back down to about NIS 270,000, and the figure seemed to be falling at the rate of about 10 percent a month. He wasn't sleeping well and wanted to know what to do.

The following factors complicated the issue: Irv was not financially sophisticated, his Hebrew wasn't good and his knowledge of the local market was thin at best. He couldn't understand much of his monthly statement. This meant he had very little involvement in the make-up of his portfolio. It was in risky, secondary stocks, a fact of which he was barely aware, and when he became anxious and wanted to get out, his broker was able to persuade him that liquidating the portfolio wasn't in his interest.

It may be that the broker hadn't taken a financial history

from Irv when he began to manage his money. Irv may have been too inexperienced to know that a pensioner doesn't put his life's savings into stocks, but the broker certainly should have known.

After we talked, Irv liquidated the portfolio and put the money into savings plans and government bonds. The episode cost him about NIS 50,000 in real terms (NIS 250,000 put into a savings plan two years ago would now be worth about NIS 320,000).

There are lessons to be learned from Irv's experience:

• **Don't invest in anything you don't understand.** If you don't know the difference between a stock and a bond, you shouldn't be playing around in the market. At most, you might put a little money into a mutual fund.

• **Anyone contemplating an investment of any kind should think carefully about whether it suits his personal circumstances.** If you can't afford a loss, you shouldn't be taking a risk. It sounds amazingly simple, but the existence of Irgun Nifga'ei Habursa (stock-market victims' association) is testimony to the need for this advice.

• **Your broker's or adviser's interests may be different from yours.** Compared with the US, regulation in this country of financial advisers is shockingly lax. Make sure you get a good explanation of what you are being offered and why it is appropriate for you. If you are not satisfied, do not accept what you are offered. Do not be pressured by hard-sell tactics. Don't feel obligated because you have taken up someone's time. If things seem to be going wrong, get assistance from a lawyer or banker you trust.

• **No one ever lost money by taking a profit.** That's what a former employer of mine used to say. His name was Rothschild.

Readers with questions or stories should write to *Your Money*, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem, or fax, 02-389527. I can't promise to deal with every problem.



Claridge Israel, backed by Charles Bronfman (left) and headed by Jonathan Kolber, got Goldman, Sachs & Co. to make its first investment here. (Gitan)

Israel wins approval on Wall Street

The local stock market's been up and down, but US investment banks are rushing to establish an Israeli presence, Riva Atlas reports from New York

THE stock market here plunged, inflation and interest rates surged, but more and more American investors are looking to Israel.

Last month, one Wall Street investment bank published a report predicting that Israel's credit rating would soon jump from BBB to A. The report praised Israel's "tough approach to inflation, the government deficit and exchange rates, together with the political stability that should result from the peace process."

Such kind words are undoubtedly welcome after the gloomy performance of the Israeli stock market this year. But they are particularly heartening considering that they were written by an economist at Morgan Stanley & Co., the elite investment banking firm.

The remarks indicate that interest in Israel has extended far beyond firms with a strong Jewish association, like Lehman Brothers and Bear, Stearns & Co., both of which have had significant interests in Israel for many years.

Morgan is just one of several US firms that are taking a longer-term perspective on doing business in Israel, despite the stock market's ups and downs. Investment banks are still rushing to establish an Israeli presence to get a piece of the coming privatizations, and a number of new funds have been raised to invest in Israeli companies.

These firms have had to look beyond the bank-shares scandal, high interest rates and terrorism — developments which drove down prices of New York-traded stocks along with the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The AMEX-Oscar Gruss index of Israeli stocks traded on New York exchanges had fallen 33% for the year, as of November 30.

But the drop in stock prices and the decline in initial public offerings led companies that can no longer raise money in the public markets to look to other sources of funds. And there are a growing number of US firms interested in supplying such capital.

"A lot of American venture capital firms have been asking me about how they can get exposure to the Israeli economy," says Howard Sterling, head of the Sterling Group, a New York investment bank that specializes in Israeli deals.

PAVING THE way for private investors was the Renaissance Fund, a \$157 million partnership raised earlier this year.

The firm just closed its first deal: it acquired a 33% interest in Paz Oil for \$105 million. Some of the purchase price came from investors in the fund like the Tisch family and Goldman Sachs & Co., who were willing to commit capital in addition to the money they had already invested in Renaissance.

The investment by Goldman — over \$20 million in total, including its original \$10 million investment in the fund — marks its first venture in Israel. Goldman was enticed to the country by Claridge Israel, co-manager of Renaissance.

Claridge is an investment firm backed by Charles Bronfman, chairman of Seagram Co. Ltd., a long-time Goldman banking client. A spokesman for Goldman declined to comment about its plans on the banking side, but a few months ago it hired Amnon Neubach, a former economic attaché with the Israeli embassy in Washington, to serve as its representative in Tel Aviv.

Besides its participation in Renaissance and the Paz deal, the Tisch family has invested in the Israel Growth Fund. That's a new partnership just raised by Bank

Leumi and Apex Partners, an affiliate of Patcof & Co., a New York venture capital firm. The partnership has the backing of OPIC (the Overseas Private Investment Corp.), a US government agency that makes loan guarantees to encourage US investment overseas.

So far, \$40 million has been raised, with a goal of \$75 million. One-third of those funds represent an equity commitment; the rest will be loaned to it, with OPIC guaranteeing an 8.5% return on the money. Other investors in the fund include Arthur Daniels Midland, the giant agricultural processing company. At least 75% of the Growth Fund's capital will be invested in private deals.

That's not to say investors are completely ignoring the stock market. In fact, after the beating prices have taken, some think it's time for bargain hunting.

"Prices have become more realistic," says Jonathan Kolber, president of Claridge Israel. "Now's a good time for foreign investors to come in."

Indeed, there were reports that the Republic Bank of New York plans to raise an unspecified sum to invest in Israeli stocks trading on the Tel Aviv exchange. Republic is controlled by financier Edmond Safra, and the fund

would be run by the First International Bank of Israel, which is owned by his brothers.

"Foreign investors should play a major role in the market's recovery," agrees Lior Bregman, an analyst at Oppenheimer & Co. Bregman, who's been following Israeli companies for five years, just hosted his third investor trip to Israel, with a group of 20 portfolio managers from the US and Europe. "There are more people who have never invested in Israel than people who've been turned off by events this year," Bregman notes.

THOSE WHO are drawn to Israel in 1995 will probably be less interested in speculative plays. "1994 represented a transformation from euphoria to realism," Bregman says. He cautions that, with stock markets down worldwide, Israeli stocks will face competition for bargain-hunters' money. Therefore, fundamentally successful companies will attract interest.

"Stocks won't stay up anymore unless their prices are backed by real earnings," he says.

That said, what stocks does Bregman recommend? For those who don't have the confidence to cherry-pick among Israeli companies, he suggests Ampal-American Israel and PEC Israel, two holding companies with diversified investments.

Bregman predicts their prices could rise by up to 30% in the next 18 months. For those willing to take specific bets, he suggests Scitex Corp. and Gilat Satellite Network, whose prices he thinks could show a 50% increase.

For now, investors are still donating, too

IF Wall Street is so enthusiastic about investing in Israel, what about donating money? Talk persists that American Jews should focus more of their money and attention on their own community, and work to combat assimilation and intermarriage.

So far, such talk has not resulted in any changes at the UJA-Federation of New York, according to James Tisch, vice-chairman of financial resources at UJA and general chairman of the organization's campaign. The group has historically allocated 70% of its money locally and 30% overseas, and has no plans to change that mix. "Yossi Beilin has made this a hot issue," Tisch notes. But the organization is mindful of the fact that Congress looks to UJA contributions to Israel as a measure of American Jewish support for the country.

But if current trends persist, UJA's attitude could change, says Lawrence Zicklin, managing partner of Neuberger & Berman, a New York investment firm. Zicklin was honored this year at the annual dinner held by the Wall Street Division of the UJA-Federation.

"It's still early, but I think there will be pressure to invest more money in the American Jewish community," he says. "When I talk to other people who are contributors they share my view. We're rapidly disappearing people in the US. I'm 58 years old, and the identification with the Holocaust and the emergence of UJA is there. With the next generation, that has a potential to weaken."

At the Wall Street dinner last week, enthusiasm for giving still seemed strong. The dinner, UJA-Federation's biggest fundraiser, brought in over \$13 million, some of it in six-figure donations. That's not a record, but pretty good in a year when many of the firms lost money. R.A.

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MARVIN

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF ISRAEL

Delegation Leaving for Oceania

The Friendship Force of Israel is leaving on February 10, 1995 for the Far East for a 33 day tour.

The members will be guests of the Friendship Force Clubs of Hawera, New Zealand, and of Tweed Valley, on the east coast of Australia.

The delegation will also have the option of visiting Thailand and Hong-Kong. Further details can be obtained from the coordinator, board member, Zamara Gil, Tel. 03-6351797.

A workshop will be held in Haifa on Saturday, December 31, 1994, for those registering.

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Paradise for addicts

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer
East-West vulnerable

North
♠ AQ
♥ 106
♦ 987
♣ KQJ752

West
♠ J843
♥ 9753
♦ A1042
♣ 6

East
♠ 10972
♥ A84
♦ K63
♣ A103

South
♠ K65
♥ KQJ2
♦ QJ5
♣ 984

HelgemoCohen Helness Zia
West North East South
2♣ 3♠ pass 3NT

Opening lead: ♠Q

Is there a paradise on earth for bridge addicts? These days it's Villaggio del Bridge, a resort town in Italy, dedicated completely to the game.

Situated in Calabria, south of Naples, on the Mediterranean coast, this village is made up of 250 condominiums, all owned by bridge players. There is one hotel, the Hotel Club de Bridge, with a playing area for 70 tables. In season (spring to fall) bridge games are held every night with about 50 tables in play.

Recently, the village hosted teams from Europe and the US initiating a new tournament called the Two Worlds Trophy, which is being promoted as the Ryder Cup of bridge.

Marvin Pulvers, the promoter of the event, is an American dreamer who discovered the Villaggio several years ago and built a home there. He helped inaugurate an annual challenge match between Europe and the US.

The American team was composed of Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell, Bobby Levin and Peter Weichsel, Zia Mahmood and Larry Cohen, and Bobby Wolff and Alan Sontag. Europe also fielded four pairs: Enri Leutkens and Berry Westra of Holland, Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness of Norway, Tony Forrester and Andy Robson of Britain, and Lorenzo Lauria and Alfredo Versace of Italy.

The teams played nine 16-board sessions over six days, each pair alternating with the other three pairs for teammates. The Americans won easily.

The level of bridge was not always the best. On many hands the experts flubbed, and this week's deal is one in which every East-West pair failed to find the winning defense to a three-no-trump contract.

At all four tables the contract was three no-trump by South. At three of the tables, West led a spade. Two declarers won in dummy with the queen and attacked clubs. East holding off until the third round, then finally winning the ace. The two Easts switched to the three of diamonds. South played the queen, and West was faced with a crucial decision.

Looking at all four hands, we can see that he had to duck the trick to defeat the contract. Then when East wins the ace of hearts, he can cash the king of diamonds and lead another to West. But both Wests, Sontag, for the US, and Westra, for Holland, won the ace of diamonds on the first round of the suit, and the contract was secure.

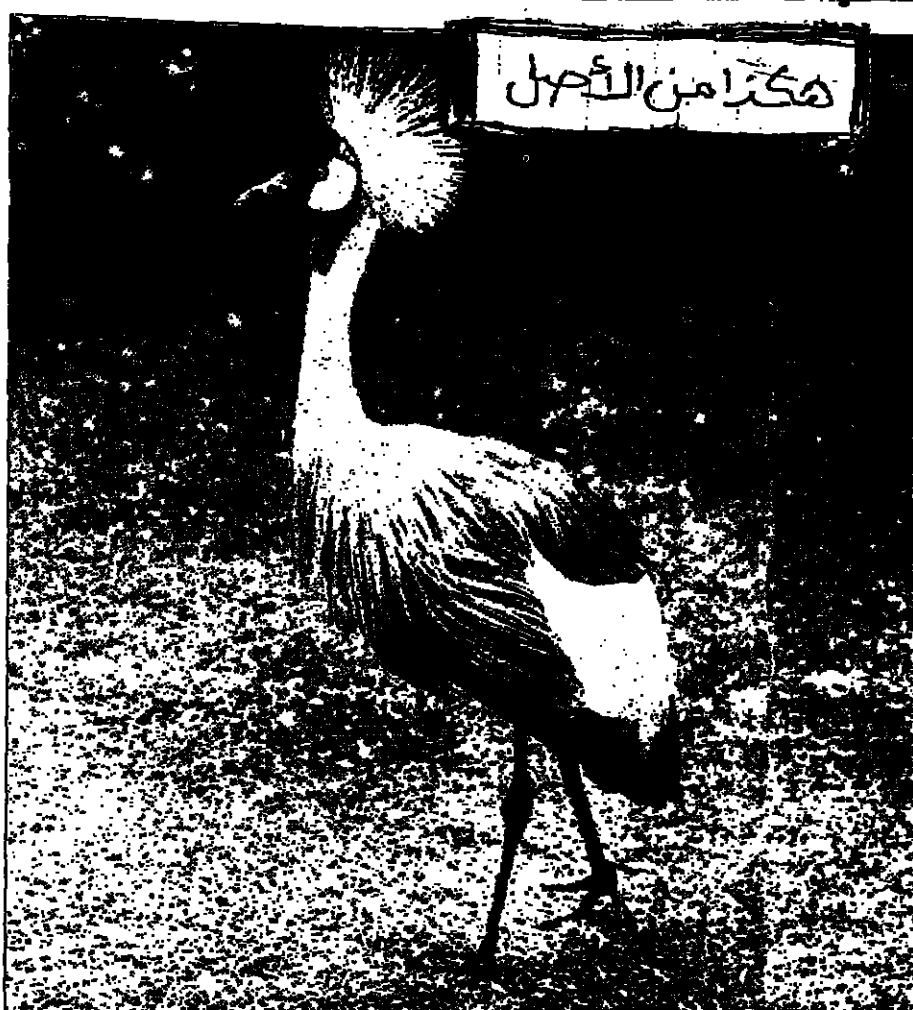
At a third table where a spade was led, declarer won, played two rounds of clubs, East ducking, then switched his attack to hearts. East (Rodwell) won the ace of hearts and found the interesting play of the diamond king. If he had followed it up with another diamond, his partner might have realized the necessity of ducking, but Rodwell cashed the ace of clubs before leading a second diamond, playing his partner to hold the ace-jack of diamonds. The contract was now made.

Finally, at the one remaining table, the auction from today's bidding diagram took place. West was the young Norwegian champion, Helgemo. After opening a strange-looking two-diamond bid, showing both majors and a weak hand, he led the deuce of diamonds.

This appeared to be the lead that would make life easy for the defense. East won the king of diamonds and returned the six. South, Zia, played the queen and West was now in position to duck.

But again the West player fell from grace and won the ace. If Helgemo had ducked, the defense would have taken three diamonds and two aces.

Maybe, just maybe, there was too much wine sipping between sessions, for how else can you explain four world-class players' failure to defeat the contract?



The crane, a favorite subject for artists, is rapidly disappearing. (Anni Rubinger)

Endangered grace

NATURE

DVORA BEN SHAUL

THE crane family, *Gruidae* in Latin, is one of the smaller families of birds, comprising only 15 species, but is so well dispersed that it is known in most of the world.

The crane is a favorite subject of Far Eastern artists, because of its grace. In Russia the bird figures prominently in art, especially religious paintings, because it symbolizes the souls of dead soldiers.

But for all its popularity, the crane (*agur* in Hebrew) is rapidly disappearing: 12 of the 15 known species are in acute danger of extinction. The migratory route of three species crosses Pakistan, where there is a flourishing "Crane Hunters' Association."

Russian and Chinese scientists are working together on a program to incubate crane eggs, raise the hatchlings and then release them in the vicinity of others of their species, in the hope they will be accepted by the flock. This has been only partially successful, particularly because cranes identify with their mothers. That is why handlers who raise them stand behind a curtain and feed them with a puppet glove resembling a crane.

The one species of crane (*Grus grus*) that winters in Israel has not fared well. In 1967, 68,500 cranes wintered here; 10 years later, only 800 did. Most recorded deaths were due to pesticides, since cranes are omnivorous and poisoned mice and birds make easy prey.

But there has been a gradual increase in the number of wintering cranes, to more than 2,500. More than half of them winter in the Jezreel Valley; the rest in the Golan, the Coastal Plain and western Negev.

The crane we know here is large, 120-140 centimeters long, including the long neck and legs. Its wing span is nearly 2.5 meters and it weighs about 5.5 kg. The bill is broad and pointed and about the same length as the head. The plumage is gray with a white stripe from eye to neck; the adult's crown is red.

Another crane sometimes seen here is on route from Turkey to Africa. This is the lovely demoisele crane (*Anthropoides virgo*) that has white neck tufts, a black neck and a drooping plume of black feathers. It is sometimes found migrating singly or in pairs together with migrating pelicans.

Pushing passed pawns

CHESS

NIGEL DAVIES

IN his famous book *My System*, the highly individual Latvian Aaron Nimzovitch wrote about the passed pawn as "a criminal, who should be kept under lock and key. Mild measures, such as police surveillance, are not sufficient."

So how, exactly, are we supposed to lock up these criminals? The answer is to post a piece directly in front of them so they can't advance any further.

The ideal man for the job is the knight, who uses the enemy pawn as a shield. Bishops are also fairly good blockers, kings too. But the queen is too powerful to be assigned such a menial role and the rook is simply terrible.

Former world champion Tigran Petrosian was pretty good at blocking and in a sense his whole style was based on inhibiting his opponent's possibilities. But in the following game, the fifth of his 1969 world championship match with Boris Spassky, even the wily Armenian did not succeed in blocking the enemy passed pawn.

Spassky, B - Petrosian, T

Semi-Tarrasch Defense
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nd3 d5 4.d4 e5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 0-0 11.Bc4 Nc6 12.0-0 b6 13.Ra1 Bb7

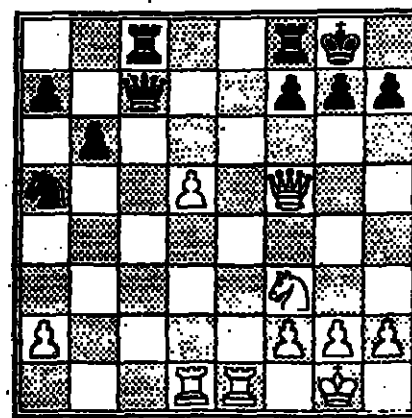
A famous Polugaevsky-Tal game from the 1969 Soviet championship went 13...Na5 14.Bd3 Bb7 15.Rf1 Rb8 16.d5 exd5 17.e5 Nc4 18.Qf4 Nb2 19.Bxb7+ Kxb7 20.Ng5+ with a winning attack.

14.Rf1 Rb8 15.d5 exd5?
After 15...Na5 Petrosian feared the variation 16.dxc6 Qxd2 17.exf7+ Kh8 18.Nxd2 Nxc4 19.Nxc4 Rxc4 20.e5, but Black can stop the pawns with 20...Bc8 21.e6 Bxe6 22.Rxc6 g6 followed by 23.Kg7. Spassky intended 16.Bd3, which transposes into the Polugaevsky game after 16...exd5 17.e5. But probably Black does better to play 16...Qd6 when a 1990 correspondence game Veen-Baumgartner went 17.e5! Qxd5 18.Qf4 h6! 19.Bh7+ Kxh7 20.Rxd5 Bxd5 with perfectly adequate compensation for the queen.

16.Bxd5 Na5
After this the knight finds it difficult to get back into play. Black subsequently tried moves such as 16...Qe7 and 16...Qc7, but without notable success in either case. 17.Qf4 Qc7 18.Qf5 Bxd5 19.exd5

The passed pawn makes its appearance, and eventually wins the game single-handedly. I'm sure Petrosian would have been sorely tempted to try and blockade it by bringing his knight to d6, but 19...Nc4 isn't good because of 20.Ng5 g6 21.Qh3 22.Ne4 Nd6 23.Nf6+ Kg7 24.Qg3! (24...Kxk6 25.Qe5 mate) with a very strong attack (see diagram).

19...Qc2
Trying to bail out into an admittedly rotten endgame (20.Qxc2 Rxc2 21.Rc7 is also good for White) but White does even better by keeping the queens on. The advance of the passed pawn can be combined with threats against the Black monarch.



20.Qf4 Qxa2

At least ensuring that White will never obtain a passed a-pawn too.

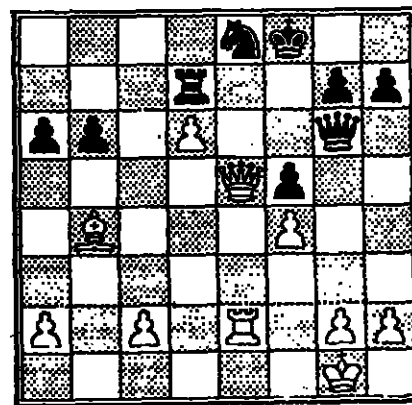
21.d6 Rcd8 22.d7 Qe4 23.Qf5 h6 Or 23...Qc6 24.Ne5 Qe6 25.Qc2 after which White penetrates decisively with Qc7.

24.Rc1 Qa6 25.Rc7 b5 26.Nd4 Qb6?!

After this matters are decided more or less by force, but Black's position is hardly enviable in any case. 26...Qd6 was later recommended as being more stubborn with the sequel 27.Nxb5 Qd2 28.Rf1 Nb3 29.Rxa7 Nd4 30.Nxd4 Qxd4 31.Rb7 g6 32.Qb5 Kg7. But this final position would also be lost for Black because his pieces are tied down to the d-pawn. White would win by advancing his kingside pawns and opening a second front against Black's king. Black's pieces would be too passively placed to resist such a plan.

27.Rc8! Nb7
If 27...Qxd4 then 28.Rxd8 Rxd8 29.Rc8+ wins or if 27...b4 then 28.Rc8 Qxd4 29.Rxf8+ Rxf8 30.Rxf8+ Kxf8 31.Qc5+! Qxc5 32.d8=Q mate. 28.Nc6 Nd6 29.Nxd8 Nxf5 30.Nc6 1-0

THIS WEEK'S problem, from a 1902 correspondence game, Zeipel-Arnegaard, continues the theme of pushing passed pawns: White to play and win.



Solution: White, in the style of Henry VIII, sacrificed his existing queen in order to get a new one: 1.Qe7+!! Rxc7 2.d7! and Black resigned. The pawn promotes and White wins a rook into the bargain.

Begonias: They bloom in late winter

GARDENING

INEZ KLIMIST

LOVELY to look at, delightful to grow - these are the rhizomatous begonias. There are hundreds of varieties, and enough types are available in nurseries so you can start a collection. Their flowers are only the least of their attractions.

These begonias come in a dazzling array of colors and sizes, from dwarf species less than 10 centimeters tall with leaves of only 2 cm., to plants which stretch to as much as 60 cm. with leaves 30 cm. wide.

The leaves are round or pointed, some resembling maple leaves, some with ruffled edges. They have a wide range of colors and beautiful combinations of dark and light greens and reds, and they are often mottled or striped. Because they put on a show all year, the leaves are the most attractive part of the plant.

As with many begonias, the leaves of the rhizomatous begonias sprout from horizontal stems called rhizomes, which grow on the surface or just under the ground. Rhizomes are sometimes furry, sometimes smooth, and colored anywhere from pale green to dark red.

In late winter or early spring your plant will surprise you with a display of delicate flowers, blooming in sprays on tall stalks. The blossoms are usually white or pale shades of pink, sometimes with darker pink spots.

These plants adapt easily to indoor cultivation. I keep mine outdoors in pots all summer and bring them in for the winter season. They are very tolerant of temperature changes, but hate to have wet feet.

When you water, give them a good soaking and then leave them alone for several weeks, so that the soil can dry out completely. Use tepid, not cold, water so that the roots aren't shocked. During the winter, it's a good idea to warm the tap water a bit before using it on any plants. Fertilize the begonias lightly, once a month during the growing

season, but withhold food now until February, while the plants are resting.

When they are outdoors in summer, they like a shady corner, sheltered from strong wind, as the stems are brittle and break easily. Indoors in the winter, they will tolerate low light. A window facing west or east will afford enough light for winter growth. The sun in south-facing windows may burn the foliage unless it is filtered through a curtain.

These begonias love humidity, so keep them away from heat sources. If you see the edges of the leaves turning crisp and dry, set the pots on pebble trays (pans with a layer of stones in the bottom), and a few centimeters of water to raise the humidity

around the leaves. But don't let the pots sit in the water. Also, do not mist the leaves, which would encourage fungus growth.

You rarely need to repot these begonias, and the stems will drape themselves handsomely over the sides of a shallow pot. Deep soil for the roots is unnecessary: a shallow, wide pot is best so that the rhizomes can spread out on the surface.

They seem to thrive in an African-violet soil mixture, or in any light-textured, well-drained potting mix. If your plant is getting too big, repot in the late spring, after the blooming season.

Be careful when repotting because the rhizomes break easily. But if one should break off, put it in a glass of water (with its leaves above the water), and in only a few weeks roots will start to form on the rhizome. When the roots get long enough (4 or 5 cm.), you can plant it in another pot.



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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

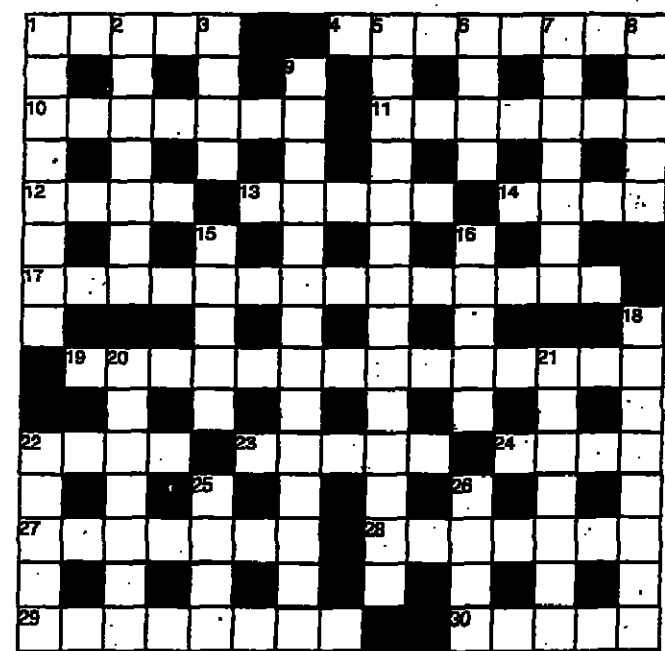
- 1 Fodder racks for cattle and horses (5)
- 4 Criminal concerning fire guard (8)
- 10 I am in favour, despite the wry expression (7)
- 11 Pretended to be distinguished (4,3)
- 12 Bill is a master at Eton (4)
- 13 A minor route, but of ample size (5)
- 14 Observe an English agent (4)
- 17 General interpretation of what peeling plaster means? (5,9)
- 19 Settle down to write music unassisted (7,7)
- 22 Some of those leaving a terminal for exit to plane (4)
- 23 Smears former South African PM (5)

DOWN

- 2 Live with a socially-acceptable boyfriend (4)
- 27 Change of Ontario address (7)
- 28 To dine in the snuggery is most elegant (7)
- 29 Voluntary worker given total independence (4,4)
- 30 Instrument is returned to Jack (5)
- 1 Just the cocktail for a society dance (8)
- 2 City that had style in the past (7)
- 3 Small, ugly old woman wants rough-cut tobacco (4)
- 5 Deaf man resolved with luck to gain the fruits of success (4,3,7)

6 Aims to reach conclusions (4)

- 7 Calls for a return to the paths of righteousness (5,2)
- 8 Annoyed at being infested with vermin (5)
- 9 Songs one emigre composed for his novels (7,7)
- 15 A large number of jalopies (5)
- 16 Young supporter of the ecology party (5)
- 18 A little speculation made in an agitated state (8)
- 20 Silver in extravagant setting is an abomination (7)
- 21 Component found in the periodic table (7)
- 22 Turn and take one's leave (2,3)
- 25 Food served by a gorgeous girl or guy (4)
- 26 Friends who hit back (4)



SOLUTIONS

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S E V P A M A G
S E C O R D O L D E R
S I N G E R O U
T A P E S T A B L I S
A L S R S G A A
B R I C K B A Y F O R S I D E
L C V I A E S E
E L E V E N T H S T R E E T

Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 7 Course, 8 Tidy, 10 Turned, 12 Adieu, 13 Erud, 13 Waver, 17 Trust, 18 Code, 22 Thrust, 23 Untruth, 24 Caser, 25 Kidnap.
DOWN: 1 Scatter, 2 Vagrant, 3 Easy, 4 Citadel, 5 Skain, 6 Syrup, 9 Versacious, 14 Problem, 15 Gamine, 16 Perhaps, 19 Stack, 20 Prize, 21 Stud.

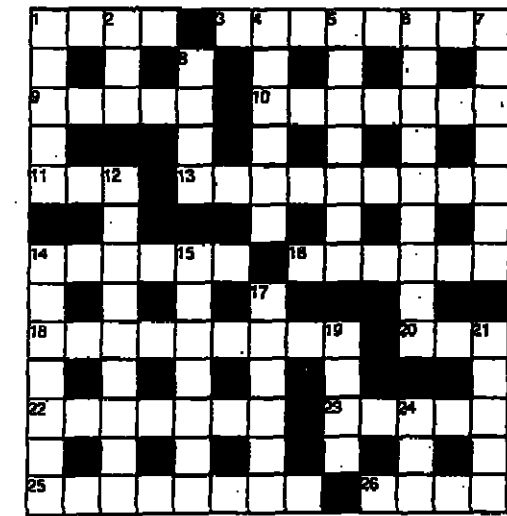
QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Locks (4)
- 3 Punning game (8)
- 9 Manservant (5)
- 10 Extinct (7)
- 11 Confederate general (3)
- 13 Cause for complaint (9)
- 14 Tolerated (6)
- 16 Moved against current (6)
- 18 Lacking backbone (9)
- 20 Drum (3)
- 22 Andalusian city (7)
- 23 Royal house (5)
- 25 Individual characteristics (8)
- 26 Greek 'u' (4)

DOWN

- 1 Ramshackle dwelling (5)
- 2 In poor health (3)
- 4 Get the better of (6)
- 5 Taken away (7)
- 6 Aim (9)
- 7 Unexpected boom (7)
- 8 Market speculator (4)
- 12 Get rid of (9)
- 14 South African spear (7)
- 15 Smartly dressed (7)
- 17 Meal (6)
- 19 Supply beyond desire (4)
- 21 Baklava jacket (5)
- 24 Pass away (3)



Ruling the airwaves

Changes are in the air following the issue of the tender for the first legal local radio stations this week, Liat Collins writes

THE pirates and the good guys are about to begin a battle for control of the waves. The airwaves, that is.

This week the tender was issued for the first seven of an eventual 16 local radio stations which are expected to begin operating by midsummer.

"It's another step in the communications revolution of recent years. After Channel 2 and the cellular phone, now it's radio's turn," says Nahman Shai, director of the Second Television and Radio Authority, which is responsible for the stations.

The declaration of war immediately follows: "We are demanding the closure of all pirate stations," he says. "No one involved in a pirate station still broadcasting after the tender came out will be able to apply for the franchise for the legal station. And we won't take experience gained through pirate stations into account when choosing the legal operators."

"The pirate stations steal the frequencies, which are a national resource."

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni says pirating will be killed when the frequencies are allocated to the legal groups. Meanwhile, she is calling on the police to help her ministry enforce the law and close down the illegal stations.

Many decided to close down voluntarily, to comply with the terms of the tender.

Menahem Shezaf of Radio Dan, which closed down last

month, does not believe that the experience gained with a pirate station will not be taken into account. "Behind every 'no,' there's a 'yes.' That's why whoever stops broadcasts on time is eligible to apply for the tender. The fact that it was formerly illegal is a technicality."

Representatives of Radio 10, the first group officially to announce its intention to apply for the Tel Aviv area franchise, disagree. "We should not be penalized for waiting to operate legally," says broadcaster/journalist Yuval Elitzur. "It would not be fair if the pirate stations, which operated illegally, were to use that time to help them gain the new legal franchises."

Radio 10, which is headed by Elitzur, includes communications industrialist Hezi Carmel, and has a former CBS Radio president among its foreign backers. It was established two years ago with the local radio franchise in mind. Carmel warns groups against entering the field out of purely commercial considerations. "Local radio is not a gold mine," he says, cautioning against the inflated expectations which surrounded the Channel 2 television franchises (see sidebar).

Nonetheless, 25 corporations bought the application forms for the tender within two days, and if it were not for the clause blocking groups with interests in either cable television or the Second Channel - which had expressed an interest before - the number



'Pirates' Hagai Segal (r) and Yehoshua Mor-Yosef of Arutz 7, operating 'outside the country, not outside the law.' (Kishitok)

would have been much higher.

EVEN IF pirate stations are allowed to come back, they may lose the special flavor they had until now. When Britain replaced pirate stations with legitimate ones in the 1970s, the results were far more subdued program-

ming than previously. Here, the franchise regulations will oblige stations to meet certain community-oriented and news requirements, even though Shai promises that the authority will maintain a noninterventionist policy as long as ethical and professional guidelines are adhered to.

Elitzur's NRG will be able to re-establish the English-language programs aimed at tourists and long-term visitors if it wins the franchise. But it might lose some of its "alternative" flavor. The fringe culture supplied by Radio Bat Yam, the North Tel Aviv-

new wave of Radio Hasharon: the Mediterranean music of Gali Yam Hatichon, so popular with Tel Aviv taxi drivers - they will all probably dissolve into smaller versions of IBA's Radio Three or Army Radio's Tel Aviv-area Army on Wheels with its traffic reports and pop.

It takes a mere million to own a radio station

UNLIKE commercial television, commercial radio does not involve huge sums.

Most franchise bidders talk about an initial investment of NIS 1m.-NIS 1.5m., spread among several partners. And a station can manage with a staff of just 30 to 40 people, including technicians.

The income, on the other hand, is also limited, particularly for stations in peripheral areas like the Negev or Galilee and the Golan.

At present, the radio advertising budget is \$27 million a year, about 7 percent of the total advertising budget. Advertising specialists estimate radio advertising income will increase to \$32m.-\$38m., but the difference will be spread around at least 16 stations.

Prices on pirate stations were cheap: NIS 100-NIS 150 per 30-second commercial. The local stations will probably double the price, but it will still be much lower than the NIS 600-NIS 700 that Israel Radio takes.

"It's an opportunity for clients of a differ-

ent kind, small local businesses and services," says Rafi Tzarfat, deputy chairman of the Israel Advertising Association. This is the basis of the success of local newspapers, he says, noting they will be the first to suffer a drop in advertising.

"It will also offer big companies the opportunity to focus on different target groups and run different radio marketing campaigns geared to the audiences of different areas. It's very flexible and will make advertising campaigns more effective." L.C.

Army Radio commander Moshe Shlonsky says he is not worried about the local stations or taking steps to counter them. Unlike Israel Radio, which is already actively campaigning for more ads, Army Radio does not rely on commercial income, and its advertisers are largely public bodies which will continue to use it.

"No matter what the competition does, Army Radio will not stoop to raffles and prizes," Shlonsky says, echoing a plea by Aloni who warned the yet-to-be-born stations of falling into the trap of equating commercial needs with vulgarity.

"It's difficult to plan for the competition until we know what shape it will take, what its schedules are and so on," says Shlonsky. "Meanwhile, we'll continue to try to improve our current format. I think we have hit a popular formula with Army on Wheels - music, entertainment, traffic reports and fun. Who knows, maybe the local stations will imitate us, and not the other way round."

He admits that he might lose some heads to the new competition, but expects it to have less of an impact than the start of Channel 2.

ONE PIRATE station that will not apply for a franchise is Arutz 7, which continued its settler-oriented broadcasts as usual this week "from somewhere on the Mediterranean."

"We're a sectoral station; not a local one," says Shulamit Melamed, program director of Arutz 7. "What good would it do us if we could broadcast legally in Bnei Brak but not in Jerusalem?" she asks.

Melamed rejects ministry claims that the pirate station is illegal. "We are not operating outside of the law. We're operating outside of the country."

Despite the ministry's and authority's declaration of war on pirate ships, politicians and other members of the establishment still regularly talk on the station's programs, she says. "Neither the radio's guests nor its audience are likely to disappear once there is more competition, she says. But Melamed is not so sure about the advertisers."

"It was never easy, anyway. But we are not in the business to make money; we are here because we have a message and we will continue to broadcast that message."

The bride came with jewels; the guests left with silver

THE bride's low cleavage did not deter Shas mentor and former Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef from performing the marriage ceremony. He could hardly refuse, considering that only a year earlier the bride's father, millionaire Brazil-based banker Edmundo Saffie, had picked up the tab for the construction of the Yehaveh Da'at synagogue in which the wedding took place. The synagogue, in Jerusalem's Har Nof neighborhood, is supervised by Yosef and his son David.

Though it was not her first venture into matrimony, the bride, Fortmees, a popular singer in Brazil and Argentina, wore a traditional white dress with a jewel-encrusted lace bodice and long, sweeping skirt. The groom, building contractor Paulo Froshan, who has also been married before, hails from Brazil too. The couple met three years ago on a night flight from New York to Sao Paulo.

Over a hundred of their relatives flew in from around the world to join the festivities. At the behest of the bride's father, who was born in Haleb, Syria, the hotel banquet room was transformed into a Middle Eastern palace, and all the waiters were dressed in galabias. Each

guest received a silver dish as a memento.

THE REQUEST from Noel Levi, Papua New Guinea's high commissioner in London, was simple. In his letter to PNG Honorary Consul in Israel Daniel Lew, Levi asked for seven tickets to the Christmas midnight mass in Bethlehem for Sir Anthony Siga-gara, deputy secretary general of the Commonwealth Secretariat. But when Lew contacted the Tourism Ministry, he was referred from one office to another, and finally to the Christian Information office in eastern Jerusalem. Lew wonders what impression such a runaround would leave on an ordinary tourist.

SUPREME COURT Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg visited Israel last week. Ginsburg is the first Jewish woman to sit on the bench of the US Supreme Court, which, she said, deals with only 100 cases a year.

Fifteen months prior to her appointment, Ginsburg, in her capacity as an appellate judge on a three-member US Federal Appeals panel, rejected an appeal against the harshness of his sentence by Jonathan Pollard, who in 1986 was confined to life imprisonment for spying for Israel.



US Supreme Court Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg tasted our milk and honey. (AP)



Broadcaster Gabi Gazit: To be or not to be Daddy to a bouncing baby boy? (Photo Sift)



Esther Herlitz: Reminded by Teddy Kollek that King David plucked in Jerusalem. (M. Shai)

HIS FRIENDS are refraining from congratulating controversial broadcaster Gabi Gazit on his new status, because it won't really be established without a DNA test. Michal Giladi, who some months ago filed a paternity suit against Gazit, this week gave

birth to a boy. Gazit, who denies he is the infant's father, will submit to a DNA test by the end of the month. If it validates Giladi's claim, Gazit will join an elite group of celebrities who have had parenthood thrust on them in this way, including Zubin Mehta, Tal

Brody and Dudu Topaz. Both Mehta and Topaz spend as much time as they can with their young sons, but Brody, for the time being at least, has no relationship other than that of financial support with his out-of-wedlock offspring.

HAVE FACES. will travel. Photographer Shai Zakai, whose book *Portrait of a Woman*, pub-

lished in March this year by the Defense Ministry Publishing House, has been enlarged into a traveling exhibition of photographs, received a pleasant surprise when the exhibit opened at the Haifa Museum. (It had already been displayed in Herzliya and Netanya.) Nava Arad, Prime Minister Rabin's adviser on the status of women, announced at the opening that the exhibit will represent Israel at next year's UN Conference on Women in Beijing.

FORMERLY AN international lawyer in Canada, Michael Davis went to Barbados for a week-long vacation. Ten years later, he is still there. "The natives were friendly, and I was single," the since-married Davis said in Jerusalem this week.

Davis, who devotes himself full-time to voluntary work for the Barbados Jewish community, was in Israel with Marshall Oran, from Boston, and Brazilian-born Winston Ben Zebede, to request assistance for the religious, educational and cultural needs of the Jewish community of Barbados in particular and the Caribbean in general.

The three are founders of the recently established Caribbean Jewish Congress. The CJC covers some 20 Caribbean communities with Jewish populations ranging from one person to over 1,000.

VISITING THE US on a fund-raising mission for the Chicago chapter of the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, New York-born Esther Wachsman, mother of Nachshon Wachsman who two months ago was kidnapped and slain by Hamas terrorists, told Neil Steinberg of the *Chicago Sun-Times*, "I felt that this group... was the most fitting memorial I could think of both as a teacher and a mother." The Chicago chapter of the FIDF is establishing 10 university scholarships in memory of her son and Nir Poraz, the IDF officer killed in the failed attempt to rescue him. The scholarships will be awarded to IDF combat veterans. Wachsman was accompanied by some of her other children, including Hezi, 20, currently serving with the Golani brigade.

SPEAKING AT the prize awards ceremony of the Twelfth International Harp Contest at the Jerusalem City Council chambers, contest director Esther Herlitz recalled that some years ago someone thought of moving the contest to Tel Aviv. Teddy Kollek, who was then mayor of Jerusalem, called her at 6 a.m. and asked angrily, "Where do you think King David played the harp - on the sand dunes of Tel Aviv?"

Endorsing the "special status" of the harp in the City of David, current Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert revealed plans to make the capital the center for all international music contests in this country.

Among those attending the prize-winning harp recitals was Mendel Propes, who immigrated here from the CIS seven months ago. Propes is the brother of the late Aharon Zvi Propes, originator of the International Harp Contest, as well as the Zimriya World Assembly of Choirs and the Israel Festival.

RETIRED SUPREME Court Judge Moshe Bejski stunned the Yad Vashem executive last week when he presented a letter of resignation to chairman of the board Avner Shalev. Bejski, a Schindler's List Holocaust survivor, has for 14 years headed the committee that researches and honors righteous gentiles. He cited health reasons for his resignation, but Yad Vashem sources said internal political disputes and wounded pride were the reasons he'd decided to step down. Shalev and other board members have urged Bejski to retract his resignation.

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TOURIST EVENTS
(Communicated)
December is a great month for music lovers. The Ministry of Tourism Events Department has organized a number of concerts, to appeal to different tastes.
The festivities begin with the Gala Christmas Eve Concert on Saturday, December 24, in Manger Square, Bethlehem, at 7 p.m. Choirs from around the world will present a rich program of Christmas carols and church spirituals. The performance is free of charge. Public transportation is available for a fee, from major hotels in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Netanya, and Bethlehem.
The International Choirs Concert at the International Convention Center, Jerusalem, will take place on Sunday, December 25, at 8:30 p.m. The evening's program will include a rich and exciting variety of pop, classical and folk songs. This year's performing choir will arrive from France, Portugal, Switzerland, Argentina, Brazil, Ghana, the United States and South Africa. In addition, there will be a local choir from Bethlehem. The gala performance is being held under the auspices of Eli Gonen, the Ministry of Tourism's director general. The musical director is Henry Klausner and master of ceremonies, Daniel Roup.
Tickets may be purchased at the Kaim and Bimot ticket agencies, Jerusalem; and the International Convention Center (Binyanei HaUma) box office. Special rates are available to groups of 15 or more.
The celebrations continue on Monday, December 26 at 8 p.m., with a combination of local singers and choirs from abroad presenting an exciting program of pop, classical, folk and liturgical pieces at the International Choirs in Nazareth concert, which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism and Nazareth Municipality. The concert will be held at the Nazareth Hall of the Orthodox Youth Club. Invitations may be obtained from the Nazareth Information Office.
For additional information, please phone 02-258152 or 02-258142.
As a special bonus, and to end the year with a memorable musical event, the Symphonic Choir of Fribourg, Switzerland, will perform *Porgy and Bess* with the Rishon LeZion Symphony Orchestra, at the Noga Theater, Jaffa, on Wednesday, December 28, at 8:30 p.m.
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1994

Hevrat Ha'ovdim moves forward in selling off assets

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

HEVRAT Ha'ovdim, the economic arm of the Histadrut trade union federation, yesterday took another step towards selling off its assets, by announcing it has set up a special committee in charge of selling the Histadrut unit's shares in Koor and its investment fund.

Hevrat Ha'ovdim Managing Director Dr. Ben-Ami Zuckerman, will head the committee which will negotiate with potential bidders. Hevrat Ha'ovdim and its investment fund together own about 22 percent of Koor's shares.

Professor Aharon Yoren was appointed the committee's legal and business advisor, while the Giza consultancy firm will offer

financial advice. Poalim Capital Markets was asked to appraise Hevrat Ha'ovdim's shares in Koor and the investment fund. Histadrut sources hope to sell the package of shares for about \$240m-\$250m.

Foreign and local investors are reported to be interested in purchasing the Koor shares from the Histadrut unit.

So far, two US consortiums have expressed an interest in purchasing the package of shares. One of the consortiums is headed by Shamrock, an investment firm controlled by the Disney family. Israeli businessman Eliezer Fishman has also announced plans to participate in purchasing the Histadrut's shares in Koor.

'Israel-EU likely to sign free-trade pact soon'

DAVID MAKOVSKY

however, does not agree, saying he would not recommend the cabinet approve the agreement as it stands now.

Maes cited three areas in which he deemed the draft an improvement: Israel will gain access to EU science and technology research institutes and programs; it will gain access to public procurement tenders; and will enjoy relaxed rules of origin on partly-Israeli goods seeking to enter the EU.

But differences remain. For example, Jerusalem does not want full - and reciprocal - access

to public tenders, since, for protectionist reasons, it does not want EU countries to be able to bid on all tenders here.

Another point of contention relates to access to EU research and development facilities. It would be the only non-European country to have such access.

The EU considers this a big concession. But Israel, which will be paying the same \$30 million annual fee as all other members, wants a role in deciding how research funds are divided up.

The final dispute relates to quotas to be imposed on Israeli products seeking to enter Europe.

Propper blasts central bank

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The Manufacturers Association yesterday criticized the Bank of Israel for its recent intervention in foreign currency trading. Association president Dan Propper said the bank is severely damaging profits from exports and reducing foreign currency reserves.

According to Propper, the market has experienced large revaluations during the last few months as a result of the central bank's policy of increasing interest rates.

The association called on the bank to reduce interest rates before economic activity slows down, leading to a recession.

Jose Rosenfeld adds: Bank of Israel spokesman Ohad Bar-Efrat said Propper's call on the Bank of Israel not to intervene in the foreign currency market when there is a demand for foreign currency in the name

of the free market was tendentious.

In particular, he pointed out that Propper had not made the same request in the past two weeks, when the bank moderated the drop in the exchange rate as a result of large dollar sell orders.

The bank also criticized Propper's call to lower interest rates, noting that throughout 1993, he made similar calls which, if heeded, would expand the money supply and fan inflation.

Government sells 0.5% of Israel Chemicals for NIS 13.5m.

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Government Companies Authority sold 0.5 percent of Israel Chemicals (ICL) shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange this week for NIS 13.5 million, in

preparation for turning the firm into a public company after the sale of its controlling stake.

Prior to the sale, the government held 75.3% of ICL shares. Following the sale of the 24.9% controlling stake in the company to private investors by the end of January, the government's share in the firm will drop to 49.9% and it will cease to be a government company.

At present, three groups consisting of local and foreign investors are conducting a due-diligence review of ICL, visiting the company and checking its books. The authority will then negotiate a price on the shares for sale with each of the parties individually.

An international issue of 22% of ICL's shares will take place a month after the sale of ICL's controlling stake, further diluting the government's holdings to 28%.

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Tadiran shares to be traded on TASE

TADIRAN, a subsidiary of Koor Industries, has decided to go ahead with its plans to register its shares for trading on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The company, whose shares are currently traded on the New York Stock Exchange, hopes to commence trading on the TASE by the end of next week. The shares will be traded in the Two-Sided market and will be included in the Maof index.

Following a sharp drop in the value of its shares on the New York Stock Exchange last week, Tadiran decided to postpone its global offering. Galit Lipkis Beck

CAA head denies harming tourism

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE head of the Civil Aviation Administration yesterday denied repeated charges by Tourism Minister Uri Baram and senior ministry officials that he is impeding the government's open skies policy.

Baram has accused Menahem Sharon of harming tourism by refusing to grant a charter permit to Sunquest, a giant Canadian tour

organizer. Only El Al has direct flights to and from Canada.

Sharon said that his critics are giving half-truths, and noted that the policy has already resulted in airline fares which are sometimes so low they seem ridiculous.

Sharon said that open skies do not mean that everyone who has a plane can carry passengers.

Ararat asks court to throw out lawsuit

THE Ararat Insurance Company has asked the Tel Aviv District Court to throw out an NIS 8.2 million lawsuit filed against the firm regarding commission fees paid to MK Avraham Shapira, the ex-owner of Carmel Carpets.

Attorney Yosef Cohen and accountant Ovadia Blass, Carmel's liquidators, filed the suit last week. In the suit, the liquidators claimed Ararat cooperated with Shapira in an attempt to cheat the conglomerate and its creditors out of money.

WORLD BRIEFS

Germany's Bundesbank yesterday announced an ambitious monetary target for 1995 to try to make sure inflation does not surge out of control as the economic recovery gathers pace next year. The Bundesbank also decided to leave all of its key interest rates unchanged. Reuters

'Italian economy can weather political storm': Italy's economy looks robust enough to weather current political storms, economists say, and problems are likely to emerge only if the outlook remains clouded for several months. President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro starts talks today to hammer out a solution to the current crisis after Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi resigned yesterday. Reuters

Mexico floats currency: The battered bonds market for emerging economies was dealt another blow yesterday as Mexico floated its currency and analysts predicted more volatility in debt instruments from Latin America to Russia.

Debt instruments had already slumped across the board this week after Mexico's 15% peso devaluation and political tensions in its southern state of Chiapas saw investors bale out of Latin American debt. Reuters

Vegetable prices fall

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

VEGETABLE prices on the wholesale market fell sharply yesterday morning, reflecting a significant growth in imports. Vegetable Board managing director Efraim Shalom said.

Cucumbers registered the sharpest drop, down to NIS 2 a kilo from NIS 8 two weeks ago. Tomato prices fell to NIS 4.50 from NIS 7 at the start of the week, while onions were down 50 percent, at NIS 1.5. Shalom predicted potato prices will start to fall next week.

The Ministry of Agriculture attributed the sudden drop in prices to Agrexco, which imported 700 tons of tomatoes this week, about one third of weekly consumption. Last week, Agrexco imported

1,000 tons of onions. Shalom said a sharp drop in price of one vegetable influences the price of others.

Shalom said there will be an oversupply of most vegetables within two months, because of a significant growth in tomato, cucumber, potato, carrot, cabbage, and cauliflower crops.

In related news, the ministry said it plans to establish a committee to coordinate the growth of vegetables and flowers in partnership with the Palestinian Authority.

The ministry also approved the import of 430 tons of olive oil from Europe due to a shortage of olives. The oil will be subject to a levy of \$800 a ton.

Price stabilization law may be challenged

RACHEL NEUMAN

THE Manufacturers Association will petition the High Court if the Knesset grants a one-year extension to the 1985 Price Stabilization of Consumer Goods Law, the association said yesterday.

According to the law, both the Industry and Trade Ministry and the Treasury must grant permission to raise the price of certain goods. The association says it is impossible to oversee prices based on criteria formulated a decade ago.

"If the government wishes to deviate from the existing law and operate under emergency conditions, it must step forward now with other considerations," the association said in statement.

A legal opinion submitted to the Knesset Finance Committee states that the extension is contrary to the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation and probably contrary to the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom.

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WORLD MARKET REPORTS

- The yield spread from short to long-dated US T-bonds has remained steady, and is currently just over 30bps. The long T-bond yields 7.84%, again steady. Trading is currently thin, mainly featuring year-end book-squaring. The market is looking forward to the release of economic data for December.
- UK gilts are consolidating in quiet year-end trade, with some funds putting a little cash into the market. The March long gilt future is held below resistance at 102-19, but that level should be achievable, if 102 holds. Support lies at 101-21. The German bund future is held above support at 89-50, but faces resistance at 89-85.
- The year-end equity rally is continuing. The DJIA recovery is still intact despite losses at the beginning of the week, with key support at 3767.
- The FT-SE 100 Index is supported at 3025, but should reach 3100 by the year-end. Take-over excitement remains a motivating factor amidst thin trading.
- The impetus from Wall Street has fuelled a rally in the Hong Kong market from 7670 to 8330. The HSI faces resistance over the entire 8250-8400 area, while support should exist at 8029-8062. HK should remain steady-to-firm as long as Wall Street continues its rally, but the HSI should break through the 8400 barrier, if the correction is to develop into a sustained recovery. The Kuala Lumpur market has rallied from a low of 895.77, as the over-sold Telekom Malaysia (TMM) and Tenaga Nasional (TENAKL) recovered on institutional buying/year-end window-dressing. 980 is expected to provide resistance, while 920 is the support level. The index should approach 1000, but we do not see scope for further advances. Trading in Singapore is mixed and thin, but the underlying tone is more confident than in HK and KL. The key resistance is 2220, and 2150 provides support with a larger bases at 2100. Into early next year, we expect the STII to trade in a narrow 2150-2220 range.
- Gold bullion has extended its recovery, and is testing the US\$382.50/oz resistance at the time of writing. The price looks set to challenge the \$385/oz hurdle. There is a wide range of expectations for bullion next year, but most believe it will remain below \$400/oz. The South African gold share market has been firm on the back of the gold price and more positive sentiment.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (22.12.94)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	Rate
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.300	6.000	6.750	3.385
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.750	5.375	6.125	1.936
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.375	4.500	4.875	4.714
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.125	3.375	3.750	0.860
Yen (¥10 million)	-	-	-	2.594
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (22.12.94)				
Currency bank	Buy	Sell	Banknotes Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.4570	3.4550	2.97	3.11
German mark	3.0288	3.0725	1.88	1.87
Pound sterling	1.9225	1.9488	1.28	1.31
French franc	4.2682	4.7894	4.69	4.81
Japanese yen (100)	0.0566	0.0545	0.04	0.07
Dutch guilder	0.0182	0.0181	0.08	0.10
Swiss franc	1.7173	1.7415	1.68	1.78
Swedish krona	2.2788	2.3110	2.23	2.34
Norwegian krona	0.4042	0.4039	0.40	0.41
Danish krone	0.4403	0.4485	0.43	0.45
Finland mark	0.4885	0.4884	0.48	0.50
Canadian dollar	0.6858	0.6889	0.62	0.65
Australian dollar	2.1706	2.2014	2.15	2.28
S. African rand	2.2511	2.2843	2.20	2.42
Belgian franc (10)	0.8509	0.8589	0.74	0.87
Austrian schilling (10)	0.0354	0.0406	0.32	0.36
Italian lire (1000)	2.7294	2.7679	2.68	2.80
Japanese yen (100)	1.8441	1.8701	1.80	1.90
Jordanian dinar	-	-	4.21	4.37
Egyptian pound	-	-	0.86	0.92
EU	3.6293	3.7048	-	-
Irish punt	4.2625	4.2925	4.52	4.80
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2712	2.3032	2.20	2.35

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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TIROCHE AUCTION HOUSE



Second murder in Haifa's homosexual community

ANOTHER member of Haifa's homosexual community has been murdered.

The body of Eliezer Levi, 52, a clinical psychologist, was discovered in his home in the Carmel district by a friend yesterday morning.

The friend told police he had become worried that Levi had not been seen, nor had he answered the telephone for several days.

The man reportedly had a key to Levi's home, let himself in, then called police after finding the body.

Haifa police spokesman Supt. Shoshani Markovitch said there

DAVID RUDGE

were signs of violence on the body. He said initial investigation had revealed that the murder had probably been committed earlier in the week.

He said that there also signs that the flat had been searched, and certain objects were missing, as well as Levi's car, a red Citroen BX RS license number 88-872-89.

"From initial inquiries and the testimony of neighbors and others, it appears that the motive for the murder was criminal, against a homosexual background," Markovitch said.

Police sources said blood stains were found in the flat, and that there were no obvious signs of a break-in, indicating that the murderer had entered by the front door and locked it after leaving.

There were reports that a serial killer might be operating among the homosexual community in Haifa, in view of the previous murder of Technion Prof. Yeshayahu Demner, at his home in the Kiryat Eliezer district two months ago.

Police sources said the possibility of a connection could not be ruled out, although it was just as likely the two cases were entirely separate.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ikrit-Baram committee visits villages
The ministerial committee on the evacuees of the villages of Ikrit and Baram visited the Galilee villages yesterday, and met with representatives of the villagers and of nearby Jewish townships. The residents of Ikrit and Baram were evacuated by Israel during the War of Independence, and were not allowed to return after the war. The villagers and their descendants have been pressing the government to be allowed to return ever since. The heads of the Western Galilee and Merom Galil regional councils reiterated their objections to having the villagers return, saying it would establish a precedent that would lead Arabs who had originated in other places in Israel to demand to return. *Itim*

HIZBULLAH

(Continued from Page 1)
Imad, who is reported to be in Iran, is among the top international terrorists on the files of Israeli and US intelligence. Foad owed his prominence in Hizbullah to his brother. Nevertheless, Lebanese observers said the fact that he had been killed in what is considered by Hizbullah to be one of its major strongholds will undoubtedly prompt the organization to retaliate in some form or another.

"Hizbullah will probably try to obtain some evidence as to those responsible before reacting, but the reaction will most likely be very harsh given the position of Mughniyah in the party and the status of his brother, as well as the fact that the bombing occurred in the heart of its turf," said a veteran Lebanese observer.

"Everybody in Lebanon is pointing to the statements made in Israel about actions north of the security zone and special operations. In the absence of any hard information regarding those responsible, Hizbullah will probably act on the circumstantial evidence," he said.

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah charged that Israel is "implementing its threats of operations outside the zone." He vowed that the organization would find the "appropriate response."

As-Safir quoted sources as saying that the major "victim" of the Beirut bomb blast was likely to be the understandings that brought an end to last summer's Operation Accountability.

Under that accord, brokered by the US between Israel, Syria, and Hizbullah, it was agreed that neither side would hit civilian targets. From Israel's point of view, the aim was to ensure no further Katyusha rocket attacks on the northern Galilee.

As-Safir quoted its sources as saying Hizbullah's reaction is likely to be quick and harsh, and unlikely to be confined to south Lebanon. It said there is likely to be an escalation of the violence in the south, especially in the security zone.

Lebanese newspapers reported that one of those killed in the bombing was a Syrian, and that five Syrians, who apparently had sought work in Lebanon, were among the wounded.

"We have received a holiday present from the enemy right after [Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Ehud] Barak told us all about it," Lebanese parliament speaker Nabih Berri, leader of the Shi'ite Amal movement, told reporters.

Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shemseddine, head of the Supreme Shi'ite Council in Lebanon, was equally adamant in apportioning blame. "The target was not Hizbullah, but the whole of the country. The message has been understood and the response will be through escalated resistance," he was quoted in the Lebanese press as saying.

There were unconfirmed reports that two suspects had been detained by the Lebanese and Syrian authorities and that they are being interrogated.

By press time, no incidents were reported in the security zone or along the northern border, but the atmosphere remained very tense in what appeared to be a lull before the expected storm.

PERES

(Continued from Page 1)
world that he knows how to negotiate better than anyone else."

Assad believes his position is stronger than it is, due to the constant wooing by Americans, Europeans, and Russians, Peres asserted. At the same time, he said he would not urge the US to stop its diplomacy, believing it has served to keep the negotiations going.

Peres also defended the government's interest in deploying US troops on the Golan as part of a multinational peacekeeping force. He said this would reduce the incentive for Syria to violate the peace terms.

"If there is an American presence, the temptation of the Syrians to overlook the presence will become extremely low," he said. A US presence would signify a US endorsement of the peace, he added.

Peres also sounded confident that an interim self-government agreement with the Palestinians would be reached.

Peres indicated that he was angry at those who attacked the Oslo accords, since the real problem is that the Likud established settlements to vitiate any prospects for peace with the Palestinians.

"The difficulties we are having in Gaza and the West Bank is the map that the Likud tried to introduce, a map that doesn't permit peace negotiations," Peres declared. Noting that the Palestinian population is growing, he charged the Jewish settlers with "sheer demagoguery" in arguing against a deal.

Peres also declared that Israel will not sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), when it comes up for renewal in April. He said Israel benefits from the ambiguity about its nuclear capability.

"If a fog is part of a deterrent, let's keep the fog," he said. He did say that Israel would agree to reconsider its position on NPT after peace prevails in the region.

BERLUSCONI

(Continued from Page 1)
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Last month, the nation's leading anti-graft prosecutors placed Berlusconi under investigation in a probe of alleged bribes to tax inspectors at his Fininvest SpA media and retail company. Berlusconi, who was questioned last week, denied any wrongdoing and claimed some prosecutors are waging a political vendetta.

Meanwhile, his key ally Bossi stepped up his attacks on Berlusconi - including demands for him to keep his promise to sever ties with his business holdings. The final break came last week, when Bossi's Northern League joined opposition parties in three no-confidence motions.

Berlusconi preempted the votes by resigning, but not before he could lambaste Bossi in parliament.

But Bossi's rebel cry may leave him out in the cold. Many Northern League members opposed his uncompromising style and his recent political courtship with former Communists, who do not share the Northern League's drive for greater regional powers.

Yesterday, a top Northern League official, Interior Minister Roberto Maroni, launched a breakaway faction of the party.

But the other member of Berlusconi's failed government - the far-right National Alliance -

stayed intact and appeared poised to make gains under Gianfranco Fini's leadership.

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Hap. PT to have hard time holding top spot

WHO will lead the National League at the end of the 14th round of National League matches?

It could be any one of seven clubs, and if the past five weeks is anything to go by, it will not be the current leaders, Hapoel Petah Tikva.

The past five rounds have seen as many leaders at the top of the National League, and if the "tradition" is kept, Petah Tikva will make way for either Maccabi Tel Aviv, Bnei Yehuda, Maccabi Haifa, Hapoel Tel Aviv, Hapoel Beersheba or Bnei Ramat Gan.

But regardless of tradition, Petah Tikva has a tough fight on its hands if it wants to keep its one-point lead at the top of the league.

Petah Tikva's young and talented squad tomorrow host Bnei Ramat Gan, one of the league's most experienced, attacking sides.

Petah Tikva's gang of youngsters, led by young manager Guy Levy, has surprised everybody, including themselves, by reaching the heights at the top.

ORI LEWIS

But they could be given a sting- ing reminder of what it's like to be league leaders, particularly by Ronen Harazi, Eli Ohana and Co., who are still smarting from their 3-2 home defeat by Maccabi Haifa last weekend.

Elsewhere, the Haifa derby will be the highlight of this week's action, with Maccabi the hosts at Kiryat Eliezer.

The clubs could not have more contrasting fortunes.

Maccabi has recovered its sparkling form of last season, and last week's win in Jerusalem showed it is one of the most talented sides in the country - and not only on paper.

With Haim Revivo in full flow, Sergei Kandaurov in top form and Roman Petz back in the line-up in the sweeper's position, Hapoel's players will have their work cut out for them.

Hapoel, on the other hand, is one of the country's most talented sides, but only on paper.

The \$5 million team is languishing in the 13th spot in the

league, and after having seemingly overcome a bad patch and returned to respectability, they have lost their way again.

Hapoel will be hard pushed to confront Maccabi on level terms, and the absence of Reuven Alar through injury will also not add to their hopes of success.

Elsewhere, Maccabi Tel Aviv are away to Bnei Ramat Gan, while Hapoel Tel Aviv host Bnei Yehuda at Bloomfield in matches which could also have a major bearing on the league lead.

Maccabi Tel Aviv have an injury list, almost as long as their fit squad, with Viktor Belkin doubtful and Avi Nimni, Alon Brumer, Ofer Shelah and Nir Sivilia all out of action. Hapoel Tel Aviv and Bnei Yehuda will both field fully-fit squads for their match.

Weekend fixtures (all matches tomorrow at 14:30 unless stated): Bnei Ramat Gan 16:30; Hapoel Beersheba v Maccabi Petah Tikva, Beersheba; Ironi Ashdod v Maccabi Herzliya, Ashdod; Maccabi Netanya v Hapoel Beit She'an, Netanya; Maccabi Haifa v Hapoel Haifa, Kiryat Eliezer; Hapoel Petah Tikva v Bnei Ramat Gan, Petah Tikva; Zairfir Holon v Ironi Rishon, Holon, today 14:30.

Baseball players make new proposal

WASHINGTON (AP) - Baseball players made a new proposal last night, as the deadline owners set for either making a deal or imposing a salary cap approached.

"We've been working on something the last several days," union head Donald Fehr said about 30 minutes after bargaining resumed. "We did present a modified proposal to the owners a few minutes ago. They're looking at it and will get back to us."

Players went on strike August 12 to protest owners' plans to limit their salaries. The strike forced owners to cancel the rest of the season and the annual World Series.

Owners say that unless there's a deal by 0501 GMT tomorrow, they will impose a salary cap.

Yesterday's meeting was the first formal bargaining session in eight days, since talks broke off at Rye Brook, New York.

"We think it addresses their concerns," Kansas City Royals pitcher David Cone said. "We feel like we've made another extended reach. It's a significant proposal."

Players and owners disagree on several major issues, including revenue-sharing and a payroll tax. Sampras' full-time coach, despite suffering two strokes and being diagnosed with a heart problem.

Several management sources said they are willing to compromise on the level of a payroll tax.

But before addressing that issue, Fehr wants owners to rework the revenue-sharing agreement

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they came up with at Fort Lauderdale last January 18.

It took owners a year to reach the revenue-sharing agreement, and management is reluctant to revisit the way teams will split their money.

In New York on Wednesday, the National Labor Relations Board accused baseball owners of unfair labor practices and set a March 14 hearing before an administrative law judge.

The NLRB made what was tantamount to an indictment, charging the owners illegally failed to make a \$7.8 million contribution on August 1 to the players' health and benefit plan.

Tuesday and Wednesday morning shuttling between the sides.

Eugene Ozna, the union's No. 2 official, said Wednesday he thought the owners' attempt to impose a cap was "inevitable."

Owners threatened to do just that when they met last Thursday in Chicago, but instead voted 25-3 to give the ruling executive council the authority to impose one if there wasn't a deal by Thursday.

Several management sources said they are willing to compromise on the level of a payroll tax.

But before addressing that issue, Fehr wants owners to rework the revenue-sharing agreement

SPORTS BRIEFS

Villa, Sheffield Wednesday swap players

Ian Taylor and Guy Whittingham switched teams yesterday as Brian Little made his first deal since becoming manager at Aston Villa. Midfielder Taylor, whose transfer value is listed at £1 million, moved from Sheffield Wednesday to Villa, with £750,000 striker Whittingham going in the other direction. Villa made up the difference in cash to complete the deal.

AP

Gullikson to continue coaching

Tim Gullikson intends to continue as top-ranked Pete Sampras' full-time coach, despite suffering two strokes and being diagnosed with a heart problem.

Reuter

Brazil names Pele as sports minister

Pele was named on Wednesday as sports minister in a new Brazilian government which will take power on January 1. It is the first time he has been given a public post.

Reuter

South Africa book berth in Mandela final

South Africa booked their place in the best-of-three match final of the Mandela Trophy against Pakistan when they beat Sri Lanka by 44 runs in a rain-affected day-night game on Wednesday. After compiling 237 for eight from their 50 overs, South Africa restricted Sri Lanka to 139 for six.

Reuter

Els named European Tour golfer of year

Ernie Els has landed the European Tour golfer of the year award for his superb performance around the world: The 25-year-old South African was unanimously named winner on Wednesday, despite strong competition from Briton Colin Montgomerie and Spaniard Jose Maria Olazabal. Els is the first non-European to receive the award since it was introduced in 1985.

Reuter

Leyton Orient club up for sale for just £5

Hard-up English second division club Leyton Orient are up for sale at just £5. That is Orient chairman Tony Wood's open offer to any loyal supporter after admitting he can no longer keep the Leyton club afloat. He has lost his personal fortune in the civil war in Rwanda, where a lucrative coffee-growing business had made him a millionaire.

Reuter

Covered tennis courts coming to K. Shmona

ORI LEWIS

KIRYAT Shmona is to get the country's first permanent covered tennis courts early next year.

The enclosure is currently being built at the Israel Tennis Center facility in Kiryat Shmona and is due to be completed in March, ITC managing director Ehud Federman told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Kiryat Shmona ITC has eight outdoor courts, three of which will be covered permanently by a marquee-like structure designed and built in Israel.

Federman said Kiryat Shmona was chosen because of difficult playing conditions there all year round. "The wet, cold weather in winter and the very windy conditions in summer have made it necessary to enclose the courts," he said.

The top and ends of the structure, which will house the courts under a single roof, will be closed permanently - with ventilation made possible by raising the walls behind the baselines.

The covered courts cost some \$400,000 to plan and construct and have been paid for by the Sherman Foundation.

The structure is 55 meters long, 35 meters wide and 10 meters in height at its highest point, over the nets.

Some 200 children train at the Kiryat Shmona ITC, which has four full-time coaches.

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The Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria
The Officer in Charge of Religious Affairs wishes to bring to the attention of the public the fact that carrying and drinking alcoholic beverages is forbidden in Manger Square and the immediate vicinity throughout Christmas Eve and Christmas morning (December 24-25, 1994).
The Civil Administration asks the public for its cooperation in this matter, and requests that all visitors to Bethlehem conduct themselves in a manner befitting the sanctity of the holy day, and that they respect the sensibilities of those who come to worship in Bethlehem.
Furthermore, the public is requested not to enter the Church of Nativity with cameras.

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Description of position:
Responsibility for the worldwide fundraising efforts of the Hebrew University. Contact with Friends organizations and participation in representing the University in Israel and abroad. Administration of the Division: planning and allocating projects and responsibility for seeing them through to completion. Coordination of public relations, including informational activities and publications. Maintenance of regular contact with the University administration and academic departments, as well as with other units associated with the University in Israel and abroad, in order to enhance the institution's image and standing. Involvement in determining the University's fundraising and public relations policies and their execution. Initiation of, and carrying out new projects, following their approval. Responsible to the Vice-President for External Relations.
Requirements:
B.A./B.Sc. degree (minimum). Fluency in both Hebrew and English and good knowledge of at least one other European language (French, Spanish or German). At least five years' experience in a senior fundraising capacity on behalf of a similar global organization. Experience in administration involving a large staff (about 50 people). Good appearance and the ability to appear in public as a representative or speaker on behalf of the University in Israel and abroad. Experience and proven ability in conducting negotiations.
Employment will be on a contractual basis.
Applicants should apply in writing by January 5, 1995, attaching a curriculum vitae, to the Division of Human Resources, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus, 91905 Jerusalem. Please note the tender number on the back of the envelope.

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HAIFA WELCOME HOME FUND SCHOLARSHIPS
The Jerusalem Post Welcome Home Fund will present 14 scholarships on Monday, December 26 at 5 p.m., to residents of Haifa, at City Hall, 14 Rehov Hassan Shukri, in the presence of the Mayor.
Readers of The Post who would like to attend the presentation should phone Ofra, Hiya or Sigal at 04-356350/1 for details.

Newcastle loses to Man. City

English Premier League readies for intensive week of action

NEWCASTLE (AP) — Newcastle suffered its first home defeat of the season as Nicky Summerbee set up both goals in Manchester City's 2-0 victory Wednesday in an English League Cup fourth round replay.

Summerbee supplied the cross for Uwe Rosler's goal in the 11th minute and passed to Paul Walsh for the insurance goal in the 80th to secure City's berth in the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, unlike the rest of Europe, where soccer is taking a well-deserved break following a busy World Cup year, the teams on the British Isles keep right on playing through their festive period, cramming up to three games between Christmas and New Year's Day.

And with Blackburn and Manchester United threatening to make the English Premier League a two-horse race, it's not the time for players to get slack on the field.

"This year, I think the clubs are giving their players a particularly hard time by having no football on Christmas Eve, a Saturday, then making them play on the 26th and 27th," said former Liverpool standout Alan Hansen. "I think that's crazy, and there are going to be some awfully tired legs halfway through that second game."

The six-day crush will be vital for teams like Newcastle, Nottingham Forest, Liverpool and Leeds — clubs that could drift off the fringe of the title race if they have a bad week. With three points for a win, there could be as much as an 18-point swing between any two teams between now and the start of the new year.

Manchester United, free to concentrate on chasing its third straight Premier League crown after its elimination from the European Champions Cup, avoids

its main rivals but will hardly have a cakewalk.

The Reds, two points behind Blackburn in the standings, play Monday at Chelsea, a team still alive in the European Cup Winners Cup, followed by what should be an easy home game Wednesday against Leicester and a New Year's Eve visit to Southampton.

Blackburn starts with a trip to Manchester City, a team riding high after a 2-0 victory at Newcastle in the League Cup on Wednesday night. The Rovers then host Leeds and then travel to Crystal Palace.

Newcastle, an unstoppable force early in the season, has slipped to five points off the lead. Injuries have taken their toll, and the Magpies' loss to City — their first at home this season — was another low.

Andy Cole, who leads the team with 15 goals, has recovered from shin splints and his shot that grazed the crossbar was the closest Newcastle came to scoring against City.

Keegan will need Cole to be on target next week. The Magpies have only two games, but they're both on the road: Monday at Leeds and Saturday at fast-improving Norwich.

Of the contenders, no one has it rougher than fourth-place Nottingham Forest. Following a road trip to West Ham in London on Monday, it's then immediately back up north for a home game the next day against Norwich. On Saturday, it's on the road again to Coventry.

Elsewhere on Monday, it's Arsenal vs. Queens Park Rangers, Chelsea vs. Wimbledon, Coventry vs. Tottenham, Everton vs. Ipswich, Leeds vs. Liverpool, Leicester vs. Sheffield Wednesday and Manchester City vs. Aston Villa.

NY a win and a prayer from playoffs

Giants gets boost as Emmitt Smith doubtful starter for Cowboys

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ (AP) — After being left for dead five weeks ago in the wake of a seven-game losing streak, the New York Giants are a win and a hope away from the playoffs.

The only problem is the Giants (8-7) have to beat the two-time defending Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys at Giants Stadium tomorrow and hope the Buccaneers (6-9) either beat or tie the Green Bay Packers (8-7) at Tampa Bay.

The odds of either happening are long. The Cowboys have beaten the Giants five straight, including a 38-10 decision at Dallas earlier this year, and they have won 14 straight against NFC East opponents. The Packers have won four straight and six of seven from Tampa Bay, including a 30-3 decision earlier this year.

"Crazier things have happened," Giants tackle Erik Howard said.

The "crazy thing" that awaits the Giants is that Emmitt Smith, who pulled a hamstring muscle in Dallas's win over New Orleans, is a doubtful starter.

Few in their right mind gave the Giants a chance of making the playoffs after their losing streak obliterated memories of the three straight victories to open the season.

In fact, no NFL team has ever made the playoffs after losing seven in a row.

However, Dan Reeves' team kept working and managed to beat Houston, Washington, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Philadelphia by a combined total of 18 points, winning four of the five games in the final minute.

The key to the streak has been the Giants' ability to reduce mistakes, particularly those by quarterback Dave Brown. He threw 10 of his 16 interceptions in the first six games of the losing streak with three being returned for touchdowns and three leading to TDs.

Brown has thrown four interceptions in the winning streak



OUCH! — Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith scampers for yardage just moments before pulling a hamstring on the play against the host New Orleans Saints on Monday. (AP)

and the Giants have just six turnovers in the span. The defense, meanwhile, has limited opponents to an average of 15 points and forced nine turnovers.

"It's been the little things," Reeves said. "We've been able to make some plays and continued to work hard. Through all of that, that was the thing that was difficult when you keep losing and keep losing and keep losing."

"You keep working hard and nothing good comes from that as far as the wins are concerned. The fact that we've won has helped the confidence level go up, and we're now more confident that if we do certain things we can play against anybody."

Dallas has been an exception,

although the Giants played extremely well in dropping a 16-13 overtime decision in the final 1993 regular-season finale, a game that gave the Cowboys the NFC East title over New York.

Working in the Giants' favor this year is that the Cowboys have already clinched the NFC East title and a first-round bye in the playoffs. Dallas will also have to play tomorrow after the Monday night game at New Orleans.

Reeves said it is conceivable Dallas might want to rest some starters, particularly any injured ones.

Even if that happens, Reeves said beating the more talented Cowboys still will be difficult.

"That's [playing the Cowboys]

is a measuring stick of where you are," Reeves said. "We didn't measure up well early in the year. So we have a long way to go to get to where you want to be as far as being a playoff contender and competing for the ultimate goal, which is the Super Bowl. But we have taken some steps forward and that's a positive."

However, missing the playoffs would make the season a failure as far as Reeves is concerned.

"We started the season and 9-7 was our goal," Reeves said. "We felt if we played well we could make the playoffs and that's our goal. We still have a chance to accomplish that. It's within our grasp, but it will take a great effort on our part."

Pats use Foreman as inspiration

FOXBORO (AP) — The mastermind who turned the Patriots into a contender sees a little George Foreman in his team. What it lacks in talent, it makes up for with determination.

Coach Bill Belichick has led New England, absent from the playoff scene for seven seasons, to the brink of the NFL postseason.

The Patriots kept rolling last Sunday with their sixth straight win, a 41-17 knockout of four-time AFC champion Buffalo that Belichick called their best game of the year.

Yet he still clings to his characterization of his young team as an "upstart" that may not have great talent.

The question is "can you muster up enough energy and will and fortitude and whatever else it takes, toughness, preparation? Can you do it at the right time?" he said.

That time for the Patriots comes tomorrow in the regular-season finale at Chicago against the Bears (9-6), who are fighting for a playoff berth in the tight NFC Central.

If the Patriots (9-6) win, they're in the playoffs. If they win and Miami loses to Detroit on Sunday night, the Patriots will be AFC East champions with a chance at a first-round bye.

But if they lose to Chicago, and Kansas City beats the Los Angeles Raiders, the Patriots will miss the playoffs for the eighth straight season.

Then there's the other extreme — winning their first division title since 1986. But a coach whose team was 3-6 before its amazing turnaround is being cautious because he knows anything is possible.

England looks to Malcolm for Ashes revival

MELBOURNE (Reuters) — Fast bowler Devon Malcolm will carry a heavy burden on his return to Test cricket tomorrow as England try to level the Ashes series in the second test against Australia.

The tourists, reeling from a succession of poor performances and a crushing defeat in the first test last month, are looking to Malcolm to resurrect their campaign.

"I know the expectation surrounding me is high, but I realize my responsibilities and I'll be giving it my all to get amongst the wickets," Malcolm said yesterday.

Malcolm will join the fray at the Melbourne Cricket Ground after being confined to bed with a bout of chickenpox during the first test in Brisbane.

In his absence, Mike Atherton's side tumbled to a 184-run defeat as Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne routed England by grabbing eight second-innings wickets.

Atherton will be looking to the potent Derbyshire strike bowler to repeat his match-winning performance in his last appearance for England.

In August, Malcolm produced a blistering spell of fast bowling at The Oval, taking nine for 57 against South Africa.

"The last Test I played is still pretty clear in my mind, and I feel there's a lot left in me," Malcolm said. "I'm fired up and raring to

go. At The Oval I was brought in to strike, and that's what I did."

Australia looks certain to include swing bowler Damien Fleming on his home ground after he was 12th man for the first Test. Whom he would replace remains uncertain.

Originally, it was expected he would come in for New South Wales pace bowler Glenn McGrath, who went wicketless in the Brisbane Test.

But the Melbourne pitch, which was watered yesterday afternoon, has favored the quicker bowlers this season, and that could mean that the selectors opt for a three-pronged pace attack of McGrath, Fleming and Craig McDermott, leaving out off-spinner Tim May.

Such a move would mean breaking up the spin-bowling partnership of May and Warne, who have tormented England in recent Tests.

"We've done pretty well with that combination over the past few years, but all the teams who have played here this year have said the pitch has helped the seamers," Australian coach Bobby Simpson said.

Warne, whose match figures of 11 for 110 were chiefly responsible for Australia's win in Brisbane, will be playing in front of his home crowd in Melbourne.

Despite Warne's 36 wickets in seven Tests against England, Atherton remains defiant: "We're not paranoid about him."



MAIN MAN — England fast bowler Devon Malcolm stretches during training at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday in preparation for the second Test against Australia. (AP)

"If conditions on the first day suggest we should bowl first, we won't hesitate, even if it means facing Warne on the fourth and fifth days, when the pitch may be wearing," said Atherton, adding this is a Test England cannot afford to lose.

"It would be difficult to see us winning three Tests in a row to get the Ashes back if we lose here, so a draw at least is paramount for us," he said.

England is likely to keep faith with Mike Gatting ahead of John Crawley and their main decision is whether Graham Gooch or Alec Stewart opens the innings

alongside Atherton.

England fast bowlers Darren Gough and Phillip DeFreitas both came through a net session yesterday morning to confirm their fitness. Spinner Philip Tufnell, despite a slight hamstring twinge, should be the other bowler, alongside Malcolm.

Teams: Australia (from) — Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Slater, David Boon, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Michael Bevan, Ian Healy, Tim May, Shane Warne, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath, Damien Fleming.

England (from) — Mike Atherton (captain), Graham Gooch, Alec Stewart, Graeme Hick, Graham Thorpe, Mike Gatting, Steve Rhodes, John Crawley, Phil DeFreitas, Darren Gough, Phil Tufnell, Devon Malcolm, Angus Fraser, Shaun Udal.

Cowboys need offensive tune-up

IRVING, Texas (AP) — A team usually needs a solid defense to get to the Super Bowl. But how do you get there with an offense that can't outscore its own defense?

This is the problem the defending Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys ponder as they come off a less-than-impressive Monday night victory over New Orleans and prepare for tomorrow's game against the New York Giants at the Meadowlands.

The Cowboys returned two interceptions for touchdowns to beat the Saints 24-16. Two weeks ago, Dallas needed a 94-yard interception return for a touchdown by Darren Woodson to knock off Philadelphia.

"We've got to get our offense going," Pro Bowl center Mark Stepnoski said. "The defense has been carrying this team. The offense isn't getting the job done. We'll never get to the Super Bowl playing like this."

Quarterback Troy Aikman missed two games with a sprained knee and the offense played well enough to get past Green Bay and Philadelphia.

Aikman returned against the Cleveland Browns, played poorly by his own admission, and Dallas lost 19-14. He threw two interceptions against the Saints and the offense accounted for only 10 points.

"I just feel so-so about the way I've played and the way the whole team has played," Aikman said. "We're going to have to play better in all phases of the game if we get to do what we want to do and that's win a third consecutive Super Bowl."

Offensive coordinator Ernie Zampese said, "We put some good drives together against the Saints. Now we need to put the whole offensive package together."

Complicating matters is the second hamstring injury of the season to running back Emmitt Smith. He suffered a right hamstring pull on October 2 and pulled his left hamstring against New Orleans.

The Cowboys need Smith in the lineup against the Giants to get back their offensive timing. But is it worth the risk of aggravating Smith's injury?

The game against the Giants means nothing to the Cowboys, who clinched a bye in the first round and will host a divisional playoff game on January 7 or 8. San Francisco has the homefield advantage throughout the playoffs.

But the Cowboys still need a solid game against the Giants for polishing and positive thinking as they head into the playoffs looking for a record third consecutive Super Bowl ring.

Orlando wins again as O'Neal scores 32 points against Clippers

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Shaquille O'Neal scored 32 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the Orlando Magic to an easy 102-91 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday night.

Nick Anderson scored 19 points and Horace Grant added 17 and 13 rebounds for the Magic, who have won four of their last five games and improved to a league-best 19-5.

Rookie Lamond Murray scored 18 points for the Clippers, who have lost five of their last six games and are a league-worst 3-21.

Nets 117, Pistons 99 Thanks to Armon Gilliam, New Jersey is surviving without Derrick Coleman.

Gilliam, who took his place in the

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	19	5	.792	—
New York	12	10	.545	6
New Jersey	12	15	.444	8.5
Boston	10	14	.417	9
Philadelphia	10	15	.400	10.5
Miami	8	15	.318	11
Washington	6	15	.286	11.5

Central Division				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	15	7	.682	—
Cleveland	15	8	.652	.5
Charlotte	11	12	.475	4.5
Chicago	10	14	.417	6
Atlanta	9	13	.409	8
Detroit	7	15	.304	8.5
Memphis	7	15	.304	8.5

starting lineup after the Nets forward injured his hand, scored a season-high 27 points as the Nets beat Detroit.

Chris Morris also added a season-high 22 points. Benoit Benjamin had 18 and Kenny Anderson added a season-high 17 assists and 11 points as the host Nets won three in a row for the first time this season.

The last two victories have been with Coleman sidelined with a lacerated hand.

Terry Mills had 25 points and rookie Grant Hill 23 as the injury-ravaged Pistons lost for the eighth time in 11 games.

Detroit, which already had Mark West, Oliver Miller and Lindsey Hunter sidelined, was without guard Joe Dumars because of a sore Achilles.

Heat 122, Bucks 112 (2 OT) Bimbo Coles missed two potential game-winning shots, but made up for it in the second overtime as Miami defeated Milwaukee.

Coles, who missed shots at the buzzer at the end of regulation and again in the first overtime, scored 10 of his 22 points in the second overtime.

He scored five straight points for a 107-105 lead, but a 3-pointer by Glenn Robinson gave the Bucks a 108-107 advantage with 2:52 remaining. Miami put the game out of reach by scoring the next eight points.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Indiana 107, Chicago 99
Miami 122, Milwaukee 112 (2OT)
New Jersey 117, Detroit 99
San Antonio 111, Denver 97
Orlando 102, L.A. Clippers 91

Glen Rice scored 30 points, while Kevin Willis had 29 and a season-high 24 rebounds.

Vin Baker had 26 points, Todd Day 25 and Robinson 21 for Milwaukee, which has lost 13 of its last 15 games and nine in a row on the road.

Pacers 107, Bulls 92 Rick Smith scored 25 points as Indiana held Chicago under 100 points for the fifth straight game.

Chicago, which had won eight straight in Market Square Arena, was led by BJ Armstrong with a season-high 27 points. Scottie Pippen was sidelined with stomach flu.

Reggie Miller had 18 points, but missed part of the third quarter after colliding with a camera under Chicago's basket. A cut above his right eye required two stitches.

Suns 111, Nuggets 97 David Robinson scored 34 points, including four in a 9-0 fourth-quarter spurt, to lead streaking San Antonio to a victory over Denver.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	17	8	.680	—
Houston	16	8	.619	2
L.A. Lakers	12	9	.568	2.5
San Antonio	12	9	.571	3
Denver	12	10	.545	3.5
Minnesota	6	18	.217	11

Pacific Division				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	18	1	.947	—
Seattle	14	7	.667	2.5
L.A. Lakers	14	8	.635	3
Sacramento	12	10	.545	3.5
Portland	11	10	.524	4
Golden State	9	15	.369	10
L.A. Clippers	3	21	.125	15.5

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REQUIRED

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Ministry
of Health

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE LAW

to come into force on January 1, 1995

HEALTH INSURANCE LAW

National
Insurance
Institute



CHARTER OF THE INSURED PERSON'S RIGHTS

In accordance with the
National Health Insurance Law

a. The National Health Insurance Law is founded upon the principles of justice, equality and mutual assistance.

b. The Law lays down the State's responsibility to finance the provision of health services for all residents of the state within the framework of the basket of health services.

c. The Law lays down an obligatory basket of vital health services which the resident shall receive unconditionally from the sick fund.

d. The medical services included in the basket of services will be supplied according to medical considerations, at a reasonable quality, within a reasonable time and at a reasonable distance from the insured's place of abode.

e. Every resident may choose any sick fund and is entitled to register with it without limitations as to age or medical state. A member of a sick fund may choose a physician and a service-provider among the physicians and service-providers of the sick fund.

f. All health insurance premiums collected from residents will be used for health purposes only and not for any other purpose.

g. Every resident may peruse the articles of the sick fund of which he is a member and receive a copy thereof.

h. Every resident may peruse the financial statements of the sick fund of which he is a member and the fund is obligated to publish the said statements.

i. An insured believing his rights to have been infringed or who has been mistreated by an employee of the sick fund or an employee acting on its behalf may file a complaint with one of the following bodies:

- the official of the sick fund responsible for investigating complaints filed by members;
- the Ombudsman of the Ministry of Health;
- the Labor Court.

A sick fund will not limit or deny the right of a member or any other person to appeal its decisions in Law.

j. An employer may not make employment with him contingent on membership in a particular sick fund.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR EVERY RESIDENT

The National Health Insurance Law guarantees equal medical care to all the residents of Israel and accords all sick funds equal status.

Every resident of Israel is insured for health care purposes by virtue of the law.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE BETWEEN THE SICK FUNDS

Every resident is entitled to select any sick fund regardless of his/her age and medical state, and to receive from it the full basket of medical services.

What should you do?

Anyone already a member of a sick fund is not required to re-register (if you are registered with more than one sick fund you will be considered to be registered with the sick fund with which you last registered). In exceptional cases when a resident requires urgent medical treatment and is not registered with a sick fund, the said resident will be entitled to receive medical services from a sick fund determined by the Director-General of the Ministry of Health.

If you are not a member of any sick fund

A resident who has not been registered with a sick fund will be registered with a sick fund chosen by the Minister of Health. After a period of six months he/she will be able to transfer in accordance with normal procedures.

Couples and Children

Married couples may register with different sick funds. Children under the age of 18 will be registered with the sick fund of the parents. If the parents are insured in different funds, children born after the Law comes into force will be registered with the fund of the parent receiving Child Benefits.

from the National Insurance Institute, unless the parents have stated otherwise on the sick fund registration form. Children registered with a sick fund prior to the Law coming into force will continue to be registered with the same fund.

When is it possible to transfer to another sick fund?

Anyone registered with a sick fund for at least one year, is entitled to transfer to another sick fund.

A request for transfer may be submitted at any time, but the transfer will only come into effect once every six months. A resident who files a request for transfer by 30th September of each year, will be registered with the fund to which he wished to be transferred as from the following January 1. A resident who files a request for transfer by March 31st, will be registered with the fund to which he wished to be transferred as from the following July 1.

YOUR BASKET OF HEALTH SERVICES IS GUARANTEED IN LAW

The health care basket comprises a range of vital medical services which each sick fund is required to provide, unconditionally, to all its insured. The basket includes:

Medical diagnosis, and ambulatory care including mental health care at a clinic, the insured's home or residential center, in the following fields*:

- Ear, Nose and Throat • Oncology • Urology • Orthopedics and Hand Surgery • Immunology • Allergies • Endocrinology and Diabetes • Genetics • Hematology • Child Development • Pediatrics • General and Pediatric Surgery • Plastic Surgery • Cardio-Thoracic Surgery • Vascular Surgery • Nephrology • Neurosurgery • Neurology • Gynecology and Obstetrics • Dermatology • Gastroenterology • Ophthalmology • Psychiatry • Internal Medicine • Rheumatology • Cardiology • Pulmonary Diseases • Radiology • Nuclear Medicine • Industrial Medicine • Maxillo Facial Surgery • Rehabilitational Medicine • General Medicine

National Insurance Institute

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE LAW • NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE LAW • NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE LAW

Personal Preventive Medicine and Health Education **
Including family health centers, routine examinations, monitoring and guidance, and physician and nurse visits for pregnant women, babies, children and senior citizens.

Surgery and Transplantation, in Israel and Abroad
The sick fund will finance for its insured, medical treatment abroad, including hospitalization, if the medical treatment or an alternative treatment, is not available in Israel and if not getting the said treatment is likely to endanger the insured's life.

Organ Transplants

Drugs
All drugs held by the sick funds -- on a physician's prescription.

Medical Equipment and Appliances**

Obstetrics and Fertility Treatment
(In-Vitro Fertilization)

Treatment of Severe Chronic Kidney Insufficiency, Thalassemia Major, Gaucher's Disease and Hemophilia

Preventive Dental Treatment for Children

Geriatrics**

Psychiatry**

Para-medical treatment, such as:
Physiotherapy
Speech Pathology Therapy
Occupational Therapy

Emergency Services and First Aid

House Calls by Physician

* Treatments for which the sick fund previously charged a fee to recipients, will continue being provided in this way, for a transition period of up to three years. During the transition period, the Ministry of Health will set uniform and controlled rates for these services.

** The Ministry of Health will continue providing this treatment during the transition period, in the same manner as before the Law came into force, but the extent of the service will be considerably increased.

Supplementary Insurance

The sick fund may offer supplementary insurance covering medical services which are not included in the basic services basket. Any member of the sick fund may choose to join his sick fund's supplementary insurance plan on payment of the premium. The premium will be equal to all members in a given plan, excluding supplementary insurance for nursing services regarding which the sick fund may set differential payments, according to the age of the insured.

The supplementary insurance schemes will be determined by the sick funds and may include supplementary inpatient services, including type of accommodation, food, appliances for extra comfort, and a short waiting period as specified in the basic service basket for inpatient medical services, on condition that the service is provided in a non-public medical institution.

A sick fund may not include in its supplementary insurance scheme choice of community physician and technological innovations, including pharmaceutical innovations.

**ALL FUNDS
WILL GO
TO HEALTH -
AND TO
HEALTH ALONE**

As of January 1, 1995, health insurance premiums will be collected by the National Insurance Institute alone and not by the sick funds, as hitherto.

All health insurance funds will be used for health care only. No money will be transferred out of health insurance funds for purposes other than health care. Whoever at present pays his sick fund by standing order is requested to cancel it during the month of January, unless he wishes to continue to pay the sick fund supplementary insurance premium by standing order.

The funding of the health care services will be the responsibility of the State. The sources of funding for the health services are:

- * Health insurance premiums paid by residents.
- * Parallel-tax receipts from employers and self-employed persons.
- * National Insurance Institute Funds.
- * Other sums from the Ministry of Health budget.

How much will we be paying?

The collection of health insurance premiums will be done more justly: low income earners will pay less than before and high income earners will pay more. Couples, of whom both are employed will pay separate insurance premiums.

The minimal income liable to health insurance premiums, in respect of an employee or a self-employed person, is a quarter of the average wage (980 NS*). Those with no income or whose income is lower than this amount, will pay the same amount as the minimum income earner - 47 NS per month. The maximal income liable to insurance premiums, in respect of an employee or a self-employed person, is four times the average wage (NIS 15,684*). Anyone having a higher income than this will not pay more.

The Law lays down two rates of health insurance premiums according to income level:
Up to half of the gross average wage (1,960 NS*) - 3.1% of gross income.
Above this amount and up to the maximum (four times the average wage - 15,684 NS*) - 4.8% of the gross income.

* As of December 1994: to be updated on 1.1.95.

How will premiums be collected?

Payment of health insurance premiums is compulsory. Health insurance premiums will be collected by the National Insurance Institute in the same way as national insurance premiums are collected. Employees will have the premium deducted by their employer at source. A self-employed person will pay the National Insurance Institute in the same way he pays national insurance premiums.

What about those receiving pensions or benefits from the National Insurance Institute or from other sources?

Whoever works and receives a pension or benefit from the National Insurance Institute or from the Ministries of Defense and Finance, will pay health insurance premiums only in respect of his income from work. The pension or benefit will be exempt from payment. Those who do not work and depend solely upon a pension or a benefit as above, will pay health insurance premiums at the minimal rate of NIS 47.

And those receiving Old Age and Survivors Benefit?

Those receiving Old Age and Survivors Benefit will pay health insurance premiums at fixed rates (NIS 88 for a single person, NIS 128 for a couple) which will be deducted at source by the National Insurance Institute. Any other income will be exempt from payment.

Every resident can check and find out what is done with his money.

The Health Ministry will supervise the activity of the sick funds and their financial situation in addition to the State Comptroller. Every fund will present full and open financial reports each quarter. The reports will be available for public viewing. The Ombudsman of the Health Ministry will also be available.

Is not someone else...
to know what is...
...the...
...the...

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**the Health Law
Open Line**

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on: Mon. & Tue. between 16:00 - 19:00

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- The Post's "agony aunt" Ruth Blum answers readers' questions.
- Intelligence experts Uri Dan and Dennis Eisenberg give you inside stories of international intrigue.

Rabin: No new Labor ministers on horizon

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin has no intention of appointing more Labor Party members to ministerial posts in the near future, he told the party central committee yesterday.

Many in the party had expected him to seize the opportunity of bringing Y'ud into the coalition to fulfill longstanding promises to Yossi Beilin and Rafi Ederi.

The question of which ministry and deputy ministership Y'ud's Gonen Segev and Alex Goldfarb will receive remains unclear, although Rabin has promised to let the two know by Saturday night. He is to bring the appointments to the cabinet on Sunday.

Rabin is believed to have only two options - he can either take the entire Energy and Infrastructure portfolio from Police Minister Moshe Shahal, or he can lift the infrastructure title from Shahal's second portfolio and create a new ministry for Segev.

The first option would lead to a confrontation with Shahal, who vehemently opposes losing the portfolio. The second would open Rabin to charges of spending millions to create an unnecessary and artificial new ministry, and it would mean confrontation with several other ministers who would have to yield influential departments to give Segev something meaningful to do.

Rabin will convene the Labor ministerial caucus this morning to deliberate the matter. The scheduling of the meeting has caused speculation that he has either already reached a decision, or that he wants to use the session to

exert pressure on the reluctant ministers.

Alluding to the recent sense of depression in the party, Rabin told the central committee: "If anyone here feels dejected, it's his problem. There is no cause for gloom. We should be happy. I'm filled with joy and pride when I survey what this government has accomplished in the socio-economic sphere."

"We have already reached all the goals we set for ourselves in infrastructure and education, and brought about a particularly dramatic decrease in unemployment. We will also lower the prices of apartments and tomatoes. If anyone thinks we've lost our way, he should take a good look at himself. I recommend that all of you walk with your heads high."

Evelyn Gordon adds: The High Court of Justice will hear a petition against Y'ud's entrance into the government next week. The petition, filed by Moshe Yemin, head of Tsomet's Rishon Lezion branch, is based on a contract that Segev and Goldfarb signed with Tsomet before the elections.

The two promised to "honor the mandate" which the movement had given them. "faithfully represent Tsomet," and work "for the implementation of the ideas detailed in Tsomet's platform."

By joining the government, the petition argues, Segev and Goldfarb are violating this agreement.

According to previous High Court rulings, political agreements are legally enforceable.

Eensy-beensy spider packs a powerful, painful wallop

JUDY SIEGEL

THREE people suffering from brown recluse spider bites - which cause pain for weeks, gangrenous flesh, and a permanent scar, have been treated this year at Assaf Harofeh Hospital, compared to the one case annually the Tzrifin hospital usually treats.

Dr. Moshe Westreich, head of the hospital's plastic surgery department, said yesterday that such bites are rare, even though the spiders are commonly found in dark places in the home and other closed areas. But because they are indeed recluses, as their name indicates, they are rarely seen and tend to avoid people.

When they do bite, the agonizing symptoms take a day or two to appear - too late to use an antidote - and take up to a month to go away. Patients, said Westreich, are in such pain that they usually prefer to remain in hospital than to go home and treat the condition themselves.

The bug ranges in size from two to four centimeters and ex-

ists throughout the world, said Westreich.

One woman treated this year was bitten on her abdomen by the spider, while two others suffered bites on their leg and arm.

Since the bite causes necrosis of the skin and underlying layers, scar tissue forms as the wound heals. The bite is not fatal, but one on the face can be very disfiguring.

Westreich said Assaf Harofeh doctors diagnosed all three cases from the appearance of the skin, which initially looks like a burn. None of the patients was aware what had happened to him.

"The venom is very powerful," he said. "There is no treatment for the actual bite, but we do give antibiotics to prevent secondary infections of the skin, which swells up and is very painful."

"There is nothing one can do about these spiders except to crush them with a shoe or spray them with insecticides if you see them. But that is unlikely, as they tend to hide," he added.



Yasser Arafat attends celebrations at the Latina Church in Gaza yesterday.

(Reuters)

Bethlehem all ready for Christmas

HAIM SHAPIRO

CHRISTMAS Eve will arrive in Bethlehem with a bang tomorrow night, with fireworks and more visitors expected than ever before, including a group of Christians from Jordan.

The fireworks are to be provided by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, which organizes the traditional midnight mass in St. Catherine's Church, adjoining the Basilica of the Nativity in Manger Square. According to Charlie Shama, coordinator for the Custody, fireworks are to be set off as the notables enter the church, and again at midnight.

Shama said that this year, Christians from Jordan who had not visited the town in many years are coming for the celebrations. In tomorrow's noonday procession, in which Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah enters the town, 6,000 Christian boys and girls, scouts, double the usual number, are expected to participate, he said.

In an unprecedented move, a Bethlehem merchant has donated more than \$50,000 to decorate the town. Nicola Canavati said that his gesture was both because of the peace process and to mark the 30th anniversary of his shop, the largest in Bethlehem.

He said the town's residents are very satisfied with the outcome of the peace talks, and they

are hoping more will be accomplished. He said he saw peace in the eyes of the town's children.

This year there will again be a concert by choirs from around the world in Manger Square, organized by the Tourism Ministry. The concert is to begin at 8:30.

As in previous years, Bethlehem will be closed to private vehicles without special stickers. Those wishing to visit can go by special Egged buses, which are to run between the Egged parking lot in Talpout and Manger Square from tomorrow morning until well after the midnight mass.

Visitors to Bethlehem should bring their identity card or passport for security checks.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat attended a Christmas party at the Roman Catholic church in Gaza yesterday, where he was entertained by schoolchildren in Santa Claus outfits. As musicians on ouds and violins played jingle bells, the children were whisked around the school grounds on police motorcycles doubling as reindeer.

Some 300 Roman Catholics live in Gaza, as do 2,600 Greek Orthodox, among 700,000 Moslems.

Arafat will not attend the cele-

brations in Bethlehem, since he has not received an Israeli permit to visit outside Gaza and Jericho. Consequently, despite the pre-inauguration custom of inviting Israeli premiers, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will not be invited, Mayor Elias Freij said last week.

Court: Psychiatric patients are fit to give testimony

THE fact that a person is a psychiatric patient does not necessarily make his testimony inadmissible in court, the Haifa District Court ruled yesterday.

In convicting Hillel Beck, 39, of assaulting a patient at the Neve Shalom Psychiatric Hospital in Pardes Hanna, Judge Micha Lindenstrauss accepted patients' testimony, which the defense objected to. (tim)

STEIMATZKY NOW

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LAWRENCE SANDERS (Coronet)
32.00 PRICE NIS

THE FIGHTING MAN

GERALD SEYMOUR (Harper Collins)
32.00 PRICE NIS

SCARLETT

ALEXANDRA RIPLEY (Warner)
30.00 PRICE NIS

DISCLOSURE

MICHAEL CRICHTON (Ballantine)
32.00 PRICE NIS

STEIMATZKY MEANS BOOKS

ATTENTION MEMBERS OF THE MACCABI HEALTH FUND & MACCABI MAGEN

In light of misleading information conveyed in the media regarding continuation of payments via standing bank orders, we wish to clarify the issue for our members:

1. The Knesset has not yet fixed the date on which the new national health insurance law will take effect.
2. Kupat Holim Maccabi will not collect any fees from standing bank orders in contradiction to the planned law.
3. After the law has taken effect, Maccabi Magen members will continue payments via a standing bank order to ensure uninterrupted continuation of benefits.

Maccabi members:
To avoid disruption of your health insurance rights and services, do not cancel standing bank orders.



A full detailed explanation will be sent to the homes of all our members.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

BIG BEN (ISRAEL) LTD. has been appointed agents to sell the entire stock of a large British Furniture retailer who recently went bankrupt. The first two containers are available in our warehouse now.

You are invited to view the large range which is too varied to describe or illustrate. The following list shows comparable prices based on a sterling rate of £1 = NIS 4.80

LOUNGE FURNITURE		UK RETAIL PRICE	
3-seater, 2-seater plus chair	Flower Print	NIS 17,885	NIS 5,995
2-seater plus chair	" "	NIS 10,657	NIS 2,995
3-seater, 2-seater plus chair	" " (seconds)	NIS 11,515	NIS 3,995
3-seater, 2-seater plus recliner	Bayer dralon	NIS 9,775	NIS 6,995
2-seater (on its own)	Print	NIS 7,105	NIS 2,895
3-seater, 2-seater	Mod. Leather	NIS 19,200	NIS 11,950
3-seater, Master chair, Club chair	Chesterfield Leather	NIS 19,500	NIS 10,950
2-seater plus chair plus chair	Cream Leather	NIS 18,500	NIS 7,995
3.20 m. Dining Table	Mahogany	NIS 8,575	NIS 4,250
Set of Dining Chairs	"	NIS 4,655	NIS 2,850

These are just examples of a very large range of dining furniture and upholstery.

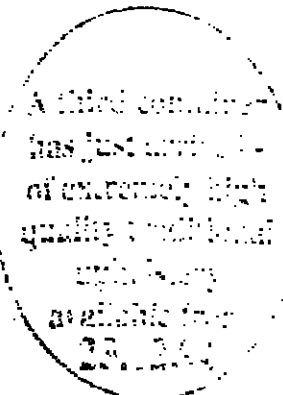
Delivery within 24 hours. Cash, Credit Card or approved cheque.

The sale is supervised by our Israeli Accountants.

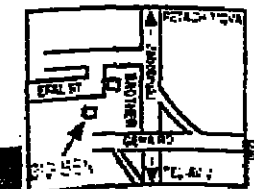
Solicitors: Redfern and Co., Colmore Row, Birmingham, England.

Open all week 10am - 6pm. Prices 10am - 11pm and Saturday 10am - 2pm.

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